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Israel

Territories—Two people were killed by IDF fire and around 100 were arrested during disturbances in "Judaea and Samaria" over the weekend, Jerusalem radio reported. The dead included a Yattah town council official who had a licensed personal weapon and was shot after firing by mistake at an IDF patrol. The other person killed was a 14-year-old boy from Tulkarm.

Around 16 other Arabs were wounded in various clashes with the IDF 20-22 January. The radio also reported that a West Bank resident was murdered in another attack on suspected collaborators. The son of a suspected collaborator died in a hospital after being shot in Nabulus recently.

Meanwhile, the Israeli authorities closed down all schools in Judaea and Samaria because of the ongoing disturbances, Jerusalem radio reported.

Tabah Talks—Israel must withdraw from Tabah before negotiations are held on the tourist installations and other outstanding issues, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid stated in remarks reported by MENA.

'Abd al-Majid was speaking after receiving a report stating that no progress was made in the 19-20 January talks on the Tabah issue, the agency noted. According to THE JERUSALEM POST, the talks have run into a "serious snag" as a result of Egypt's demand that Israel give a specific and binding timetable for its withdrawal before other issues are settled.

PLO Affairs

Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio broadcast "Call No 33" which outlined a program of further action in the occupied territories from 25 January to 10 February. The radio also broadcast a message by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat appealing to Arab leaders to support the Palestinians in confronting the Israeli Government's "comprehensive repression." Arab states should take action to "curb the bestiality" of the Israeli army, he said.

Regarding 'Arafat's warning against anyone calling for an end to the uprising, a PLO spokesman cited by the radio expressed regret that "certain U.S. officials" are using "fabrications" disseminated by Israel while disregarding the daily killings of Palestinians and Israeli threats to assassinate Palestinian leaders.

PLO official Bassam Abu Sharif likewise told Radio Monte Carlo that U.S. officials have ignored a threat by Ari'el Sharon to assassinate 'Arafat, but added he is "optimistic" that President Bush will not turn a blind eye to the "daily crimes" against the Palestinian people perpetrated by Israeli forces.

Lebanon

Amal-Hizballah Conflict—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati flew to Syria 22 January for talks aimed at solving the Amal-Hizballah conflict, IRNA reported. Velayati met with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri in Damascus the following day, Tehran radio noted.

Birri had earlier affirmed Amal's commitment to halting the fighting on the basis of an initiative by Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, according to Beirut radio. However, Birri stressed that Amal still insists that Hizballah hand over those responsible for the assassination of three Amal leaders in September 1988.

Lahd's Return—South Lebanese Army commander General Antoine Lahd returned to Marj 'Uyun 22 January amid "strict security measures and mass public receptions," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Lahd stated that a military court will try the woman who attempted to assassinate him last year.

Arab Committee—The heads of the rival governments in East and West Beirut have both agreed to go to Tunis to meet with the Arab committee on the Lebanese crisis, KUNA reported. Nevertheless, Salim al-Huss, prime minister in West Beirut, stressed he will not meet with General Michel 'Awn in Tunis, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio noted.

Libya

The Libyan soccer federation confirmed its decision to cancel the scheduled World Cup match with Algeria, stating that this decision was in accordance with Libya's belief that the Jamahiri and Algerian teams "are in fact one team and there should be no conventional competition between them."

The statement, which was broadcast by Tripoli radio, noted that Libya has agreed to award the result of the match in favor of Algeria.

A Libyan soccer official cited by JANA affirmed that the Libyan decision to cancel the match was linked with the ongoing "confrontation" with the United States, noting that the soccer stadium is "only 60 km away from the Al-Rabitah pharmaceutical plant," which the United States "threatens to hit."

According to TANJUG, some 70,000 dissatisfied Libyan soccer supporters protested the cancellation, prompting police to fire in the air to disperse the demonstrators.

In another development, JANA's Arab affairs editor expressed regret over criticisms of the Libyan leadership made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in a recent interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper. The editor accused Mubarak of violating promises to halt the propaganda campaign between the two countries, but added Libya will not respond in kind.

Maghreb Affairs

Tunisia—Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met with Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, and other Tunisian officials during his visit to Tunis 21 January, MENA reported. Discussions dealt with Arab and African issues and with bilateral relations.

Algeria—President Chadli Bendjedid met with UN special representative Gros Espiell, Algiers radio reported. During a meeting with the press later, Espiell noted his "great satisfaction" with the talks in which Bendjedid stated Algeria's "full support" for the peace proposals on the Western Sahara issue, the radio added.

Sudan

A government MiG-23 was shot down over Nasir City by the SPLA 21 January, according to the clandestine SPLA radio. A statement issued by the Defense Ministry in Khartoum said the aircraft was hit by a SAM missile, SUNA reported.

Meanwhile, the military High Command announced that the Army has repulsed an attack on Nasir City during which 24 rebels were killed, according to National Unity radio.

The government's efforts to send relief supplies to the south by train are being "thwarted and resisted" by the rebels, according to a Council of Ministers statement issued 18 January and reported by National Unity radio.

The statement added that the government "reaffirms its determination" to transport relief aid and to continue the program of opening up the roads.

Syria

If the United States "couples words with deeds" and takes a "tangible practical step" toward a just peace then the Bush administration will find the Arabs more enthusiastic and ready to reciprocate, AL-BA'TH declared in an editorial reported by Damascus radio.

A commentary by Damascus radio said the United States "has a major, specific responsibility for the situation in this region," adding that the closer the United States gets to justice in this region, the greater and more influential its role will be.

Iraq and the Yemens

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn arrived in Sanaa 21 January, INA reported. At the start of official talks, YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih pointed out the "historic" bilateral relations and the "honest cooperation" between the two countries, according to Sanaa radio.

The views of both sides at the talks were "identical," the radio added.

For Iraq's part, Saddam Husayn expressed his "great appreciation" for the YAR's contribution to the defense of "Arab territory, sanctuaries, and security," INA reported.

PDRY Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and a delegation had arrived in Baghdad 18 January for a 4-day visit, INA reported. During the visit the two sides agreed to form a "higher committee" for economic, cultural, and scientific-technical cooperation.

Iran

Judicial Procedure—Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebili revealed in a Friday prayers sermon that Imam Khomeyni has ordered the speeding up of justice, Tehran radio reported. He added that a headquarters has been set up to allocate judicial work, to speed up the administration of justice, and to follow up legal matters.

U.S. Presidential Inauguration—President Bush will "inherit" Ronald Reagan's "warmongering" policies, Tehran radio stated in commentaries broadcast on 20 and 21 January. The radio analyzed Reagan's "performance", including Grenada, Nicaragua, and the Persian Gulf, and declared there will probably be no "sharp deviations" in policy but changes in the world may "force the White House" into making changes.

Afghanistan

Food Shortages—Soviet aircraft have delivered a "large consignment" of flour to Kabul to help alleviate the economic blockade on the city and the supply difficulties caused by severe weather conditions, TASS reported.

Kabul is "suffering critical food shortages" due to the mujahidin's economic blockade, according to AFP. However, Kabul radio reported later that the "distribution of bread and other food has been alleviated."

Military Situation—More than 656 "extremists" were killed in fighting in Nangarhar Province, according to Kabul radio reports over the weekend. Casualties in other provinces totalled more than 173 "extremists" killed, the radio reported.

On the other hand, Islamabad radio reported that 15 Afghan Government troops were killed and 100 wounded in clashes in Jalalabad region.

The governor of Konduz denied claims that the mujahidin captured Konduz airport 20 January, according to TASS.

Protest—The Afghan Government delivered its "strongest protest" to Pakistan 20 January over the landing of two Pakistani helicopters, the discovery of a supply convoy in Nangarhar 17 January, and the intrusion into Ghowshtah District of 200 soldiers in "commando uniforms" on 11 January, Kabul radio reported.

However, a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Islamabad radio asserted that "no Pakistani helicopter had intruded into Afghan territory."

Mujahidin—There were "no agreements and coordination" between the mujahidin groups based in Pakistan and the other groups on the composition of the Consultative Council, a spokesman for the Iran-based mujahidin groups declared in a 19 January roundtable discussion broadcast by Tehran television.

He stated the council has "many weak points and problems" and is "one-sided". One of his colleagues said the future council should take into account the rights of "all the mujahidin."

Pakistan

The Baluchistan High Court in a "unanimous" judgment declared the dissolution of the provincial assembly to be "unconstitutional" and ordered its restoration, Islamabad radio reported.

The Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan will "blaze the way toward better understanding" with the USSR, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto maintained in a Moscow television interview. She also declared that the government "is pleased" that the USSR has offered to help Pakistan's scientific development.

An Iranian delegation led by IRGC Minister 'Ali Shamkani met with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Bhutto, and Defense Ministry officials 22 January, according to Islamabad and Tehran radios. Iran has asked Pakistan for help in reorganizing its armed forces, AFP noted and cited "official sources" as saying that the two sides discussed "issues of common interest and professional matters."

Shamkani also met with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan 22 January to discuss the latest developments in Afghanistan, IRNA reported.

The inauguration of U.S. President George Bush was welcomed in a 21 January commentary broadcast by Islamabad radio. The "most refreshing words" uttered by the new President concerned his affirmation that the United States "would keep its alliances and friendship strong," the commentary declared, adding that the ties between Pakistan and the United States "will be further consolidated."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syria Seeking 'Normalization' With Egypt

JN1901184389 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Jan 89 p 1

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] Arab diplomatic circles in Cairo have affirmed that Syria recently communicated to Saudi Arabia and Jordan its wish to remove all outstanding problems with Egypt and to open a direct dialogue between Cairo and Damascus. Syria also asked for the start of gradual normalization of Egyptian-Syrian relations without preconditions.

The circles indicated that Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad affirmed to King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, and King Husayn of Jordan each one's respect for the other.

The circles added that King Fahd and King Husayn are currently preparing for an Egyptian-Syrian meeting on the ministerial level in Riyadh or Damascus for talks on future Egyptian-Syrian relations.

The circles affirmed that Saudi Arabia's pressure on Syria has succeeded in changing the Syrian stand on the PLO and that rapprochement between Damascus and the PLO will lead to the removal of one of the points of disagreement in the Egyptian-Syrian relations. They indicated that differences between Cairo and Damascus are confined to the Syrian stand on PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the Syrian intervention in Lebanon.

The circles affirmed that the success of the Saudi-Jordanian mediation in rapproching Egyptian-Syrian viewpoints is attributed to the mutual trust between the two sides.

Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, YAR To Announce 'Grouping'

JN2301075589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0605 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Jan (WAKH)—A senior Jordanian ministerial source has affirmed that the establishment of a grouping of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and the YAR is expected to be announced within the next few weeks. The purpose of this grouping is to achieve coordination among the four states in the political and economic fields in addition to holding consultation and coordination among the various sectors and functionaries in these countries.

Today's Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD cited this source as saying that the door will be left open for the rest of the Arab countries to join this grouping as this grouping will not constitute a unity, confederation, or merger because each Arab state will run its own internal affairs.

A prominent governmental source in Sanaa also confirmed the establishment of this grouping. He noted that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said during his talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn that any coordination between the two countries or any other countries in the present or future does not constitute a political pivot or bloc but an economic and technical cooperation to be followed by other steps that will not be directed against any other country.

The source also noted the speech delivered by the Iraqi president during the first round of talks in Sanaa. He said Iraq blesses any cooperation between two or more Arab states and that Iraq wishes to see this cooperation among any Arab grouping.

The source affirmed that the grouping of the four countries will be based on technical and economic cooperation as well as the establishment of joint investments among the grouping states.

YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, who concluded his talks in Amman yesterday, had visited Baghdad a few days ago and held similar talks related to economic and technical cooperation among the three states. The YAR prime minister visited Egypt last October and held talks with the Egyptian prime minister on the same topic.

In light of the results of these talks, a formula for this Arab grouping will be laid down.

Palestinian Affairs

Spokesman Denies 'Arafat Threat to Palestinians

JN1901175389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] U.S. State Department Spokesman Charles Redman announced yesterday that he has a voice recording of an 'Arafat statement in which he says he will shoot anyone who thinks of stopping the uprising before it realizes its aims. Redman said such statements contravene 'Arafat's renunciation of terrorism as declared in Geneva.

Redman's statement was denied by Palestinians in Tunis. The PLO official spokesman announced in Tunis today that Yasir 'Arafat did not threaten with death Palestinians who think of a truce in the uprising in the occupied territory.

Today, Yasir 'Arafat issued an appeal for escalating the uprising despite the iron-fist policy of the Israeli authorities in the occupied territory. He said the Israeli officials have forgotten that the Palestinian people have from the beginning resolved to carry out the uprising through to the end, affirming that Palestinian independence is a stone's throw away.

PLO Reacts to 'Accusations' Against 'Arafat

JN2001130689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] A White House spokesman said yesterday that President Ronald Reagan had sent a message to President Husni Mubarak asking him to urge the PLO to respect its decision on renouncing terrorism and to couple words with deeds.

The PLO reacted to these accusations. Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, said: instead of asking us for clarifications about rumored remarks attributed to 'Arafat, the U.S. Administration should have taken Israel to task for the crimes it is committing in the occupied territories.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh added that terrorism does not take place through words but actions, Israel's actions in the occupied territories are crimes and terrorism, and Washington should explain to us its stand toward the Israeli practices.

Abu Sharif Comments on 'Arafat Remarks, Bush

JN2001182089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1726 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Antoine Nawfal—recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] Bassam Abu Sharif, hello.

[Abu Sharif] Hello.

[Nawfal] Did Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] really utter his controversial sentence?

[Abu Sharif] In Riyadh, Brother Abu 'Ammar was responding to a speaker who criticized him for his peaceful initiative. Brother Abu 'Ammar was defending the PLO position, affirming that it is leading the intifadah until the occupation ends, that the Palestinian people will not allow anyone to stop this uprising and that he himself will confront those who want to stop this intifadah. He never mentioned in any way the name of brother Ilyas Frayj.

[Nawfal] But what did he say exactly?

[Abu Sharif] I have told you what he said exactly. We challenge anyone who says he possesses a tape because we have the tape...

[Nawfal, interrupting] The U.S. State Department claims it has a tape recording.

[Abu Sharif] [Words indistinct] threatened Ilyas Frayj or anyone by name one way or another.

[Nawfal] But was the threat directed at Palestinian figures or not?

[Abu Sharif] No, the words were in general and in defense of...

[Nawfal, interrupting] And directed at all those who confront the intifadah.

[Abu Sharif] ...the PLO, which leads the intifadah and continues with it toward ending the occupation, and that this leadership will not allow anyone to stop the intifadah.

[Nawfal] You are aware that Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin proposed a plan to stop the uprising in exchange for elections, expanded autonomy, and the establishment of a confederation with Jordan. It seems Rabin will present his plan to Palestinian figures.

What does the PLO say to these figures? Does it tell them to respond to the invitation and listen to the plan or reject the invitation and the plan?

[Abu Sharif] First of all, Palestinian national figures do not meet with Rabin, the butcher and killer of Palestinian children. As a supreme military ruler, Rabin summons some figures against their will.

However, in this case, Camp David is over and done with. All the ideas of Rabin, Arens, or Shamir that are inspired by Camp David are dead and cannot in any way deal with the real issue. Our intifadah is continuing until the last occupying soldier is out of my land.

[Nawfal] The PLO asked the United States to explain what it called Israel's crimes in the occupied territory. This demand followed Washington's demand for explanations about 'Arafat's statement. Are 'Arafat and the PLO displeased with the United States and the U.S. Administration? Which administration are they displeased with: the Reagan administration, the Bush administration, or both?

[Abu Sharif] Some U.S. officials are using what was falsely attributed to Yasir 'Arafat, brother Abu 'Ammar, but at the same time, they shut their eyes and ears to the open threats, such as Sharon's threat to assassinate brother Abu 'Ammar personally.

The United States is ignoring the daily crimes that are being committed against our people, who are resisting and struggling for the sake of freedom and independence.

We hope that Bush, who enters the White House today, will not ignore these things but will face these crimes and contribute toward promoting the cause of peace in the Middle East and stop this terrorist war against our people.

[Nawfal] I can see that you are in favor of Bush?

[Abu Sharif] We hope that the new U.S. President will not follow the policy of the outgoing administration. We are now optimistic he will take facts into consideration and that he will not turn a blind eye to the Israeli occupation forces' daily crimes against the Palestinian people.

[Nawfal] Are the Palestinian-U.S. contacts continuing in a serious manner?

[Abu Sharif] Yes, recently it was disclosed that a new meeting took place between the U.S. ammbassador in Tunis and brother Hakam Bal'awi, the Palestinian ambassador in Tunis.

[Nawfal] What is your opinion of Ilyas Frayj? What is the PLO view of him?

[Abu Sharif] Brother Ilyas Frayj is a Palestinian citizen and the PLO is responsible for the rights of each Palestinian citizen. We are surprised that the U.S. Administration should meddle in Palestinian affairs in connection with brother Ilyas Frayj. He is our brother and the PLO is responsible for his rights and their preservation.

[Nawfal] Do you trust him fully?

[Abu Sarif] We trust every Palestinian citizen who struggles to end the occpation.

[Nawfal] The final question is connected with the intifadah. 'Arafat said 2 days ago that the intifadah is continuing. What does the continuation of the intifadah mean today?

[Abu Sharif] In fact, the intifadah is a human reaction against oppression, exploitation, and colonization. No power on earth can stop anyone who reacts against those who oppress him. The day before yesterday, Shamir said: We are furious with the intifadah's leadership because this leadership compels us to kill Palestnians.

We say this intifadah is a human reaction. It is a reaction of the man whose freedom, land, and dignity have been usurped. This human being will continue until he restores all of them.

[Nawfal] Does this statement by Abu Sharif commit the PLO officially?

[Abu Sharif] Yes.

[Nawfal] Thank you brother Bassam.

Threats to Ilyas Frayj 'Completely Fabricated'

JN2101174389 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1623 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] A PLO spokesman has stated the following:

At the time when President Bush is being officially sworn in, certain U.S. officials are staging a campaign of deception against the brother leader, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman, in which they are using false information. They are also ignoring the facts of the matter, trying to cover up the organized terrorism practiced by the Israeli occupation troops against our people, and ignoring the Israeli leaders' threats to assassinate Palestinian leaders.

Here, we would like to clarify the following points:

What has been attributed to brother Abu 'Ammar of threats to Bethlehem Mayor Mr Ilyas Frayj is completely fabricated and intentionally distorted to stir an issue that is completely unfounded. The best proof of this is that Mr Ilyas Frayj has denied the report in interview with a NEW YORK TIMES correspondent and other media organs.

It is truly regrettable that certain U.S. officials are continuing to use fabrications marketed by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to cover up the real, ugly crimes committed by Israeli occupation troops against our people in the Palestinian occupied territories. We have no doubt that this fabricated campaign is now being staged to cover up the savage, inhuman, and [word indistinct] escalation, which is being practiced now by the Israeli occupation troops against our people on clear and public directives from the Israeli Government.

Within this context, we would like to clarify the following:

1. Mr Ilyas Frayj is a Palestinian citizen, whose rights the PLO is responsible for preserving, not the Government of the United States. We consider this an intervention in our internal affairs at the time when Mr Ilyas Frayj has denied receiving any threats.

2. Those U.S. officials who distribute these fabricated reports contribute to encouraging the Israeli occupation troops to commit crimes against our people and try to cover up for them. While they concentrate on these fabricated reports, they turn a blind eye to the daily murders of our people and ignore public threats by Israeli leaders to assassinate Palestinian leaders, the latest of which was Sharon's threat to assassinate brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman.

3. The statements by Redman and other officials constitute a clear attempt to cover up the crimes of the Israeli escalation and terrorism against our children, women, and people. These statements are made by using fabricated statements at a time when the Israeli peace forces are demonstrating to express their denunciation of the crimes committed by the Israeli army against our people and the new policy of escalating the planned, official Israeli terrorism. The continuation of this deceptive campaign is truly regrettable.

We hope President Bush will push forward the peace process in the region. We also hope he will stand against continued occupation of our land and homeland and against the policy of escalating Israeli terrorism against our people, children, and women.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj Rejects Rabin Plan

JN2101175289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor brother Ilyas Frayj last night rejected the plan proposed by the terrorist Zionist war minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, which includes interim arrangements to pave the way for autonomy for the Palestinian citizens.

Brother Frayj said the Palestinians in occupied Palestine reject Rabin's plan, which aims to elect puppets to replace the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He asserted the need to convene an international peace conference under the auspices of the UN Security Council's five permenant members.

Frayj also referred to international support for the recent Palestinian political moves which were noted in the address by the brother leader, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman, in Geneva and his call to all the concerned parties to participate in the peace process under international auspices.

Abu Sharif Comments on New U.S. Administration

JN2001180389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1710 GMT 20 Jan 89

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jan (WAKH)—The PLO today called on the new U.S. Administration to use its influence to stop the new wave of terrorism Israel is carrying out against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Bassam Abu Sharif, information adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, said: We hope the new U.S. President George Bush, who will enter the White House today as President of the United States, will use his country's political, moral, and material influence to end our people's pains, which are beyond description, and which are the result of the Israeli occupation authorities' use of means of terrorism and repression that have surpassed those the Nazis used.

Abu Sharif told a number of Arab and world news agencies' correspondents here today that the Palestinian people are expecting that a nation that has fought for freedom and independence and paid the price, such as the American nation, will stand on the side of those who are fighting and struggling for freedom and independence.

Abu Sharif described the Israeli Government's recent measures to quell the uprising as new proof that terrorism is being adopted as policy of the State of Israel against the Palestinian people.

The Israeli Government has recently approved a plan that is based on a series of measures to escalate repression and terrorism against participants in the popular uprising in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.

Abu Sharif reiterated the Palestinian people's determination to continue their uprising and said this escalation in the use of terrorism against the Palestinian people will not change the course drawn up by the PNC as regards the effecting of intensive moves with the aim of paving the way for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Abu Sharif voiced the hope that U.S. President Bush will take the necessary steps required to advance the peace process in the Middle East and exert efforts in cooperation with the permanent members of the UN Security Council with the aim of ending the large-scale sufferings experienced by the Palestinian people, who are living under the yoke of the campaigns of organized terrorism launched by the Israeli Government and army against the Palestinian people.

In reply to questions on the future of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Abu Sharif said the dialogue is continuing in a vital manner and added it seeks to dot many "i's" in the political picture of the Middle East with the aim of realizing a recognition by the United States of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and also of this people's right to establish their independent state, just like other peoples.

Abu Sharif stressed that the Palestinians are not harboring any delusions regarding the difficulty of the post-Geneva phase and also the patience needed at this phase. However, Abu Sharif added the Palestinians under the PLO are adhering to the peace initiative and also to the political course that they approved at the PNC despite the extremist stand taken by the Israeli Government—a stand rejecting peace endeavors.

Abu Sharif went on to say: In the course of the U.S-Palestinian dialogue, we are interested in discussing terrorism and means of cooperation to end this terrorism, foremost among which is the organized state terrorism being perpetrated by Israel and its occupation army against the Palestinian people in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.

Abu Sharif said: We are also interested in developing this dialogue in the direction of crystallizing convictions based on the human rights principles advocated and upheld by the United States, as the U.S. Administration has failed to translate into deeds its concern for human rights when these rights pertain to the Palestinian individual the way it has been doing when human rights violations concern other peoples.

Abu Sharif added: We hope the dialogue will crystallize a U.S. stand that recognizes the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, foremost among which is their right to express their opinion and to self-determination.

Official Denies Any Information on Pan Am Blast

JN1901183789 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Jan 89 pp 1, 21

[Text] Washington—A Palestinian official has told AL-ITTIHAD that the PLO has not accused any of the Palestinian organizations in the Pan Am airplane incident and that it has not informed the U.S. Administration of anything to this effect.

The official said: The PLO has expressed readiness to conduct an investigation on the Palestinian level to make certain if any Palestinian side has a role in that incident. He added: If anything is proved, the one responsible will be brought before the Palestinian judiciary.

The official has asserted that the reports broadcast by a U.S. television station are exaggerated and that the PLO has not accused any Palestinian side.

On the other hand, the U.S. State Department's spokesman has asserted that the PLO has not provided any information on the responsibility for the ill-fated airplane incident.

The U.S. television network, ABC, has reported that the PLO has provided very useful information to British and German intelligence, which are investigating the bombing of the U.S. civilian airplane, which took place last month.

In a report attributed to Western intelligence sources, the network reported that scores of PLO intelligence men are working with British and West German investigators.

In Lockerbie, where the airplane fell, the official in charge of investigations into the incident has said that the container that contained the suitcase, in which the bomb was placed, has been identified.

However, he declined to say whether the container was shipped from Frankfurt or London. He also declined to speculate on those who carried out the operation or the type of the detonator used in order not to "obstruct the investigation process."

Muhammad al-'Umari Said Responsible for Bombing

NC2001123889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] According to Western reports, the destruction of the Pam American plane over Scotland last month was carried out by Palestinian terrorist Muhammad al-'Umari, alias Abu Ibrahim. He is the leader of the 15 May Organization for the Liberation of Palestine.

The reports pointed out that the explosive charge was placed inside a suitcase and the detonator was placed in the locks. The explosive charge was in paper form. The reports added that Abu Ibrahim had prepared eight suitcases of this kind since 1980. Most of them have exploded, and only three have remained.

The reports affirmed that Abu Ibrahim carried out the explosion in cooperation with a senior Syrian intelligence official.

PLO Holding Talks on Government Formation

JN2001081289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Jan 89 p 1

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned from informed Palestinian sources that since PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's return from Helsinki, Baghdad has been witnessing intensive consultations to form a Palestinian government after the PNC had authorized the PLO Executive Committee to do so during its extraordinary session in Algiers.

The sources said that these consultations are being held bilaterally between Yasir 'Arafat and several Palestinian figures of various trends, a number of whom were summoned from outside Iraq for this purpose. The sources stressed that efforts to form a government have been expedited following Yasir 'Arafat's return from an Arab and European tour during which successful meetings were held.

These meetings enhanced the conviction in the need to expedite the formation of this government in the wake of George Bush's assumption of his post as President of the United States.

The sources expected this government to comprise Mahmud 'Abbas, Muhammad Milhim, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, Sa'id Kamal, Khalid al-Hasan, 'Abd al-Majid Shuman, Edward Said, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Haj, Ilyas Frayj, Hanna Sinyurah, Faysal al-Husayni, Bassam al-Shak'ah, Tahir al-Masri, Mustafa al-Natshah, Intisar al-Wazir, and others from inside and outside occupied Palestine.

PFLP Rejects Rabin Proposal, Urges Struggle

JN2001131089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The first Palestinian reaction to Rabin's proposal came from the PFLP Political Bureau today. The PFLP Political Bureau's official spokesman said Rabin's proposal does not include any new political element but is part of the abortive political maneuvers to which Israel is accustomed.

The spokesman announced the PFLP's categotrical rejection of Rabin's calls. He called on the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising to escalate struggle and to confront firmly any suspect who might positively respond to the proposal of the Israeli war minister, as he put it.

Abu Nidal Reportedly Using Norwegian Passport

LD2101131189 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1130 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Nidal, one of the world's most hunted terrorists, is traveling and operating with a forged Norwegian passport, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said in a French newspaper interview, quoted by the Oslo paper VERDENS GANG.

According to the paper, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and the Security Police have been informed about the PLO leader's allegations, which are the first concrete pieces of information for a long time about Abu Nidal's activities.

Norwegian passports are sought after among international terrorists and criminals as they are very easy to forge, according to VERDENS GANG.

Algeria

Match With Libya Canceled 'for Security Reasons'

LD2001101089 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen: I believe many are waiting for details concerning the news related to the soccer match between Algeria and the Jamahiriyah, which was scheduled, I repeat, scheduled to take place today at the Tripoli international stadium. But according to the most recent news coming from our correspondent over there, Ahmed Belaidi, this match might be canceled and not take place this evening. On the line, radio correspondent Ahmed Belaidi and more details to this effect:

[Belaidi] Will the match between Algeria and Libya take place today? This is a question that continues to be raised by all here in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Information drawn from sources behind the scenes in Tripoli and its suburbs say that the Libyan team is withdrawing and will not face the Algerian team for security reasons related to the brotherly relations between the two brotherly countries, the Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

We say this with caution while awaiting the confirmation or denial of this information right after the technical meeting which will be held this morning at 1000 [0700 GMT] in Tripoli. [passage omitted]

It is strange that yesterday's Libyan newspapers did not mention this match at all. This attitude raised the doubts of many people present here in Libya.

Soccer Field Near Factory 'Threatened by U.S.'

LD2001123189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The awaited match between the Algerian national soccer team and its Libyan counterpart has been postponed. A short while ago, colleague Faysal Khamiq from the sports section spoke with the Tripoli correspondent of the AL-MASA newspaper 'Isa Ismail, who attended the meeting of the technical committee. Here are the details:

[Begin recording] ['Isa Ismail] Brother Faysal, it was decided at 1030 this morning to cancel the world cup match which was scheduled to take place between the Libyan and the Algerian teams.

[Faysal Ghamiq] Yes.

['Isa Ismail] The head of the Libyan delegation requested during this meeting to cancel this match for security reasons. In particular he said that the factory which is threatened by the United States of America is not far from the playing field where the match was scheduled to take place. And he added that they cannot expose the people to danger.

The representative of the International Federation of Football Associations [FIFA] said he will inform the Federation about the Libyans' attitude and added that FIFA will make its decision shortly. [end recording]

Officials Deny UK Deportation Issue Raised

PM1701133989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Jan 89 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Algerian Ambassador in London to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Relations With Britain Good"]

[Excerpts] Algiers, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Algerian Ambassador in London Hadj Benabdelkader Azzout and a British Home Office spokesman expressed their astonishment at yesterday's reports that Algerian citizens were expelled and deported from British territory recently.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the Algerian ambassador said that there was no justification for such reports and there was no reason for talking about them, since such things sometimes happen between states.

Ambassador Azzout said that Algerian-British relations are good and he has never raised with any British official the question of Algerians being deported from British territory or prevented from entering it. [passage omitted]

A British Home Office spokesman said that there are no measures against Algerian citizens.

He added: And there have been no deportations at all, and any measures taken in the past or to be taken in the future fall within the framework of implementing the laws governing entry and residence, and these apply not only to Algerians, but to all visitors to Britain.

The spokesman expressed his astonishment that such a matter should be raised when there is no reason for it. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Congratulates Bush on Inauguration

NC2001191889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak sent a message to U.S. President George Bush following his inauguration ceremony today. Mubarak congratulated Bush on assuming the U.S. leadership at this significant stage and expressed the hope that his leadership will witness further positive action and progress along the course of curbing international tension and enhancing opportunities for peace and stability.

In his message, President Mubarak expressed the hope that the United States will double its efforts to achieve peace and protect security and stability in the Middle East region, particularly in view of the positive steps that have been taken during the past few months.

The president also referred to bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields, hoping that the coming stage will witness a further bolstering of friendship ties between Egypt and the United States.

'Abd al-Majid Expects Bush To Keep Peace Role

NC1901184789 Paris AFP in English 1732 GMT 19 Jan 89

[By Magda Abu Fadil]

[Text] Cairo, Jan 19 (AFP)—Egypt expects the Bush administration to build on past accomplishments by its predecessor to maintain momentum in Middle East peace efforts, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said here.

"I don't think the new Bush administration will operate in a vacuum since it will build on important groundwork laid by the outgoing administration," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in an exclusive interview late Wednesday.

The comments from Washington's principal Arab ally came as President-elect George Bush was preparing to be sworn in Friday as the 41st President of the United States.

Mr. 'Abd al-Majid also praised outgoing President Ronald Reagan for reactivating interest in the Middle East and sending Secretary of State George Shultz to the region early last year to present new negotiating proposals.

The Shultz plan favored an international conference to provide greater autonomy for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But the proposed international forum would have little actual negotiating power and would essentially serve as a backdrop for direct Arab-Israeli talks on the occupied territories.

"The plan had basic and positive points and I particularly refer to the land-for-peace proposal," Mr. 'Abd al-Majid said. "This point was never brought up in the American interpretation (of negotiations) as clearly as when George Shultz defined it."

Specifically, the proposal underlined the importance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 which calls for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories captured in the 1967 Middle East war, the said.

"There must be a choice between peace and land. You cannot have both at once," the foreign minister said.

Western analysts here believe that if there are to be negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors they will come as a result of Egyptian prodding.

"Everything is being done to bring other Arabs to where Egypt is now," a Western analyst said of steps to convene a conference under United Nations auspices.

"That's why the Egyptians moved quickly to support the Shultz initiative and be present at its creation," he added.

Last week Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said the United Nations could play a role in preparing direct peace negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

But he cautioned that neither the United Nations nor the superpowers could take part in the substance of the negotiations.

"If press reports are accurate, it's a positive step," Mr. 'Abd al-Majid said of Mr. Shamir's statement holding out the possibility of a U.N. role.

But he also welcomed European initiatives to generate momentum in Middle East peace efforts and dismissed suggestions that several Western European countries may be pre-empting Washington by establishing close relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"I don't think so, since each is striving for it (contact) within his framework," Mr. 'Abd al-Majid said. "There's no contradiction between these efforts since they all aim at promoting peace."

He also acknowledged a role for Syria in any future Middle East settlement, noting that it had "a responsibility in the region." Damascus has rejected bilateral peace negotiations with Israel, preferring instead a United Nations umbrella.

But Western analysts here believe a peace settlement can be reached without Syria. "The days when Syria could sabotage (peace efforts) are over," one of them said.

'Source' on 'Secret Contacts' With Libya

NC2101171189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] An informed Egyptian source said today that secret contacts are being conducted to improve relations between Egypt and Libya. The source noted that 36 Libyan envoys have arrived in Cairo on secret visits since last November.

Joint Communique on Meetings With Somalia

NC2201161289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Egypt and Somalia have underlined their enthusiasm for the unity of Arab ranks for the sake of an effective joint Arab action to achieve the higher pan-Arab interests. The two countries also stressed the importance of speeding up the convocation of the international conference for peace in the Middle East. They expressed their satisfaction with the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran and called for full implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

The two parties expressed satisfaction with the similarity of their views on various regional and international issues. They agreed on the importance of continuing the coordination and consultation between the two countries' foreign policy organs in the various fields.

This came in the joint communique issued today in Cairo and Mogadishu on the Higher Joint Egyptian-Somali Committee meetings which were held in Cairo in the past few days. In their communique, the Egyptian and Somali delegations expressed their satisfaction with and appreciation for the positive developments in the Palestinian issue, the declaration of the Palestinian state, and the world response to the PLO's positive stands. The two delegations said that the Palestinian people's sacrifices to achieve their legitimate rights and their popular uprising are clear expressions of their rejection of the continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories.

Regarding the situation in the Horn of Africa, the Egyptian side welcomed the normalization of relations between Somalia and Ethiopia. The two parties also reviewed the OAU's role in achieving its desired goals and agreed to coordinate their efforts within the OAU. They expressed satisfaction with the recent developments in the Namibia issue and the activation of Arab-African cooperation.

They also agreed on the importance of supporting and strengthening Egyptian-Somali relations in the various fields of cooperation.

Sharon Reportedly Calls for 'Arafat's Death

NC1901120489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM strongly criticizes the call by Ari'el Sharon, Israeli industry and trade minister, to kill Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat on the pretext that peace will not be achieved as long the Palestinian leader lives. The paper demands that the Israeli minister be brought to account for the inappropriate extremist statement.

In its Thursday issue, AL-AHRAM says: This is the first time that a responsible Israeli leader has publicly called for getting rid of 'Arafat. According to the most basic rules of political protocol, the minister must be made to account at the cabinet and the Knesset for these extremist statements which ignore the rules of etiquette and put a brand of disgrace on the forehead of his party. This makes it necessary to bring him to account on the party level as well.

In this regard, AL-AHRAM points out that in democratic states, which Israel considers itself among, a cabinet might resign for a lesser reason. This might happen particuarly if efforts failed to persuade the minister concerned to redress what he said or did, as long as it was the general opinion that he had harmed the cabinet's policy.

The paper explains that this extremist view reflects the atmosphere of disagreement within the Israeli cabinet. It says: The Israeli disorientation, manifested by divisions in public opinion, has reached the higher echelons and positions. This leads one to believe that the cabinet in its entirety has failed to coordinate among its members under the impact of the successive developments.

AL-AHRAM points out that during cabinet meetings, three ministers, namely the ministers of justice, Arab affairs, and energy, have accused Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of fumbling and adopting an unjustified policy of violence against the Arab inhabitants. The ministers sharply critized Rabin for the violent repressive measures he has already adopted, or those he intends to take, against the stone-throwing demonstrators.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM asks: Can anyone hope that a cabinet torn apart by such disagreements ranging from repression and a frank call for murder to the demand for moderation and reason, of dealing with the greatest peaceful challenge facing Israel now?

Conference Planned on Preventing Air Accidents

JN1501182089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Jan 89 p 20

[By Muhammad Harbi]

[Text] It has been decided that a scientific conference on civil aviation accidents will be held in Cairo next February to study the best ways to protect planes from bomb threats and hijacking. The conference will be attended by 300 aviation experts from Egypt, the Arab countries, and 17 African countries as well as by representatives of the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO] and aircraft manufacturers.

Major General Ahmad Hamdi, first deputy minister of tourism and civil aviation and director of the accident investigation department, said that the conference will be organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation under the patronage of Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation. The conference will concentrate on the main factors that cause aviation accidents in order to reduce or prevent them and to provide the utmost security for planes.

He added that 12 experts from the ICAO and aircraft manufacturers will present reports on international progress in the aircraft and equipment industry.

Maj Gen Ahmad Hamdi also said that he will present to the conference a report on the progress in the analysis of accidents in Egypt and the main causes of accidents to planes used for spraying agricultural crops, including pylons, telephone wires, and noncompliance of runways with international specifications.

'Egypt's Revolution' Case Adjourned Until Feb

NC2201153089 Paris AFP in English 1515 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, Jan 22 (AFP)—The state security court here on Sunday rejected challenges to its competence to hear evidence against a group known as "Egypt's Revolution", whose members are charged with attacks on U.S. and Israeli diplomats.

The accused include the son of former President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir.

Lawyers for 20 defendants maintain that the court is not entitled to try the case, as it is strictly an emergency tribunal set up in 1981 after the murder of President Anwar al-Sadat.

Egypt's Revolution, a secular, leftist group, has been implicated in the deaths of two Israeli diplomats, the wounding of three others and attacks on three U.S. diplomats in Cairo from 1985 to 1987.

Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, the eldest son of President al-Sadat's predecessor, is out of the country and was charged last year in absentia.

His cousin, Jamal Shawqi 'Abd al-Nasir, was detained at Cairo airport on January 3 and later released on bail after voluntarily returning to Egypt to appear at the trial.

The hearing, held at the Cairo fairgrounds, was originally scheduled for January 24 but was brought forward to Sunday to avoid coinciding with an international book fair.

The case has now been adjourned until February 14.

Al-Ghazali Speech at Al-Azhar Cited

PM1901162789 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Jan 89 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Shaykh al-Ghazali Explains Concept of and Reasons for Al-Azhar Statement"]

[Text] At the Al-Azhar conference last week His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali spoke for nearly 5 hours, but the media services broadcast only five minutes of it!!

In his first comment on the reactions to the Al-Azhar conference—which aroused many reactions and was attended, apart from Al-Ghazali, by His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi, Shaykh Muhammad al-Tayyib al-Najjar, as well as other senior ulama—the Muslim scholar made exclusive statements to AL-SHA'B. Shaykh al-Ghazali emphasized that the extremist trend emerged as a result of the forced absence of the moderate trend. And also because of the absence of rational guides enjoying freedom of expression and speech in the country. Those who are responsible for this are known. Maybe they are apostates who hate Islam, or slaves to their own personal aims.

The senior Muslim scholar criticized the manner in which the state is dealing with the extremists. He said: This method, which has been used for more than 30 years, is similar to that used by the Jews in dealing with the youths of the Palestinian uprisings—torture, plunder, and brutality!! Isn't there a gentle or rational attitude? In fact the brutality went so far that some thought that the matter had to do not with suppressing extremism, but, rather, with obstructing Islam itself. Under the crack of the whips the executioners were told: You are not Muslims. Then a battle broke out between those who are ignorant of Islam and those who reject it!!

Shaykh al-Ghazali said: We do not lose our conscience in these blind acts of sedition. We advocate the true Islam in order for both the ruler and the ruled to abide by it. And if we say that God's religion is too sublime to be taken from the mouth of the foolish, it is also too sublime to be taken from oppressors and tyrants.

The senior Muslim scholar added: There are those who hate all Islamic trends, whether moderate or extremist! They are waging wars against Islam, both secretly and openly. They make sarcastic remarks about it. The existence of such a group is not strange in view of the long time that colonialism existed in the Arab world and the cultural invasion of our countries. In fact the agents of that invasion have become more ferocious during the successive predicaments inflicted on Muslims and as a result of the errors made within the Islamic arena itself. To confront these we ask for nothing more than freedom of speech. We are not thinking of carrying a stick for our rivals. All we want is for Muslim preachers to be given the opportunity given to their rivals in terms of time and place. And I am certain that falsehood will not last for long. This is because it is based not on coherence but, rather, on malicious backing.

Shaykh al-Ghazali emphasized that wrongdoing can be changed across nine-tenths of the scene by guaranteeing freedom of speech. We believe in the power of truth as well as the ability of the pen and the spoken word to achieve a great deal under freedom.

Shaykh al-Ghazali went on to tell AL-SHA'B: Our nation strongly refuses to abandon its religion and Shari'ah. It will not even abandon a single letter of the Koran. Nor will any of the Shari'ah rules be neglected. Our relationship with our Almighty God is based on the principle "we listen and obey." But Muslims must know which is the correct road to rebuilding.

For a century or more the Islamic world was exposed to a spiteful colonialism that humiliated us both politically and militarily. It was able to occupy both territories and minds and invade our religious and moral heritage. So the believing forces confronted it and were able to liberate the territory, and are now working to liberate the law and public traditions and rid our heritage of every foreign invasion.

The task requires both vision and organization. When the house collapses, efforts must be focused on rebuilding it and laying down its pillars and foundations. As for fighting over the furniture before the rebuilding process is completed, it is foolishness.

Our religion builds belief on knowledge of the universe and the ability to learn from it. Our programs in this regard are regrettable and have not eliminated much of civilization's backwardness. We are almost a burden to others! And our story with the loaf of bread inspires embarrassment. So how about the more important things in life?

If we move from religion to morality, we will find huge cracks in our moral structure. How can we ignore them when weak morality is behind maladministration, low production, and chaotic attitudes in all areas?

Besides, ignoring human rights and the value of freedoms has made the Islamic world a stage for oppressors, on which they prey on the weak, open prisons, muzzle people, and spread fear. What sort of religion can survive under these oppressors? Islam has 70 shoots, and the priority is to both revive and preserve them. This is what we must focus on.

As for wrongdoings and the way to eliminate them from society, Shaykh al-Ghazali said: Paganism was the greatest vice! So what did the Prophet, peace be upon Him, do about it? He did not demolish a single idol around the Ka'bah until he was 61, that is, 2 years before his death. He used to prevent vice with words. He promised the nation that he would eliminate it with his hands when the opportunity presented itself. And that happened when Mecca was open. A year before, he performed 'umrah [minor hajj] but did not destroy any of the idols or hint at anything of this kind to any of his companions. He was busy preparing his nation to purify the land of idolatry. He was also preparing the force whose task was to silence every liar. He did not waste time, peace be upon Him. Far from it! But we are not following his sunnah in enlightenment, education, training, or preparedness.

We have abandoned our major duty, namely to achieve self-sufficiency and a respectable level of civilization and to accentuate Islam as a true democracy, eliminating political idolatry but protecting material and moral dignity. We have contented ourselves with crying and weeping, and the outcome has been defeats.

Islamic Leaders Denounce Arrests, Violence

PM1901160189 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
3 Jan 89 pp 1-2

[Ahmad al-Suyufi report: "Islamic Ulema Urge Release Of Detainees"]

[Text] In their statement which Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi delivered last Sunday after the noon prayers at Al-Azhar, the Islamic ulema warned about the continuing violence between the authorities and the youth. They urged that detainees be released so that security and peace would prevail. Thousands of youths crowded at Al-Azhar to hear the ulema's statement.

In his address to the youths Shaykh [Muhammad] al-Ghazali said: I abhor from the bottom of my heart anyone who places obstacles in the way of the Islamic call [al-da'wah]. I consider anyone who muzzles me or obstructs my way to be an enemy of Islam. I also consider any fool of a friend an enemy of Islam. I would like to tell my brothers that I am not one of the authority's preachers or the police's ulema. In fact there is a great distance between me and the authorities and the police, and I will do nothing but serve my religion and the message we were taught. When I condemn ignorant preachers I condemn every apostate from Islam at the same time.

Then Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi spoke. He said: We must be patient in order to preserve the candle which is now illuminating a small area, and then let it illuminate the area for those who love it but burn those who are hostile to Islam. Be aware where our food comes from. Prepare yourselves in advance, and be aware that the opponents of Islam will not leave you alone.

We must be very aware of what is wanted for us.

I am not one of the authorities' men. We have rejected republican decisions, and our rulers must speed up legislation and stay the hand that threatens them. I want you to work for God and be people of reconciliation.

Then Dr Muhammad al-Tayyib al-Najjar, former rector of Al-Azhar University, spoke. He said: I, too, declare that I am not one of the authorities' preachers. This is because the ulema preach God knowingly and fear no one. Our religion teaches us to tell the truth and help one another in righteousness and piety. It urges us to work and produce. Young men: You are the nation's hope, so be aware that the nation's enemies are lying in wait for you. We want to tell you a word of truth: We must wake up. We urge you to save Egypt, to work and produce. And we urge those in charge not to meet violence with violence. We hope that they will begin a new era and release those detained. I believe they will take such a step. It is God who bestows success.

Spokesman Comments on Regional Issues

PM1701102589 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 13 Jan 89 pp 34-35

[Interview with Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, General Information Authority head, by Usamah 'Ajaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: What is the truth about the press statements attributed to President Mubarak in which he announced his readiness to visit Israel, especially as some people have created a storm over the issue after Israel's claim that arrangements were being made for such a visit?

Al-Biltaji: In my opinion, there is absolutely no reason for such a storm, because President Husni Mubarak's thinking and political stances are declared and all his statements are clear and cannot arouse speculation or storms. They are firm stances consistent with President Mubarak's pan-Arab approach, which he has adopted ever since he assumed power.

The fact is simply that Egypt uses all its capabilities and contacts to serve its resolute strategic line with the aim of establishing a just peace in the Middle East region. Is there any ambiguity in this line? Is there any ambiguity about this method which has been maintained over 8 years? The natural answer is: No. There is no ambiguity. So the statements must be read carefully.

Obviously President Husni Mubarak meant exactly what he said. Perhaps the objective of the storm is to try to divert attention from the new reality and challenge which Israel must face, that is, the peace challenge, for which an objective breakthrough via negotiations is required in order to establish peace. Obviously any summit meeting must formulate an agreement already prepared for and discussed—an agreement over which viewpoints are already close. So a summit meeting crowns tireless efforts made at various levels. Summit meetings are not held to explore opinions or probe viewpoints. There are numerous channels for political and diplomatic work. Our contacts with Israel still stand and are open; they can be used in this regard.

Third, if summit meetings do not result in, or are not crowned with, an agreement leading to a breakthrough toward actual peace, they are bound to have an adverse impact on the peace process itself—which Egypt does not want. Finally, a just solution to the Palestinian problem—something which Egypt has always worked for and which President Mubarak mentioned in his statement—requires suitable conditions, the most important of them being that Israel refrain from obstructing negotiations with any Arab parties, including the PLO, and from setting preconditions. So negotiations must be held via the international conference, to which all the parties concerned and the various international community members have agreed. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you not believe that the Israeli statements that actual preparations for the visit are being made may adversely affect Egyptian-Arab relations, which are growing at this stage?

Al-Biltaji: This will not, and must not, have a negative impact at all. This is because developing relations are based on a policy derived from historic practices maintained over the past 8 years. These developing relations are the outcome of tireless work and continuous efforts. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What is the future of Egyptian-Israeli relations in light of the coalition government's program—which indicates that there will be no negotiations with the PLO—the Palestinian peace plan, Israel's attempt to organize elections in the occupied territories, and the return of the idea of autonomy?

Al-Biltaji: Actually the recent Israeli proposal does not match the course of the direction of developments. There is a Palestinian uprising, which has continued for more than a year. The uprising has destroyed the Israeli fait accompli theory and reflected the Palestinian people's strong nationalist feelings. There is also another element, that is, Jordanian-Palestinian rapprochement, in addition to the tripartite Al-'Aqabah summit and the Baghdad summit that followed it. All this proved that political fact.

There is also the development resulting from PNC resolutions in Algiers, which have created a completely new political reality which Israel must deal with. This is in addition to the development in the international community's position, the acceptance of the international conference idea, and negotiations based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and in accordance with UN Resolution 181 stipulating the establishment of two states. Besides, terrorism has been renounced and a confederation between Palestine and Jordan is being considered.

And there is also the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. All these factors make the recent Israel proposal an attempt to deviate from international consensus in order to divert attention from the new reality and obstruct the general peace line, which is based on the points I have mentioned. Furthermore, holding the proposed elections under occupation is unacceptable and not a serious proposition. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Some positive aspects emerged recently in Egyptian-Syrian relations, most recently the meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and the Arab Bar Association. There have also been reports of an official meeting between Egyptian and Syrian officials. What stage have Cairo-Damascus relations reached?

Al-Biltaji: In fact Egypt advocates dialogue, reconciliation, common pan-Arab action, and Arab solidarity. So Egypt always accepts anything that is bound to give expression to these concepts which we believe in, especially with regard to Egyptian-Syrian relations. Egypt maintains a firm position. We see that there is no contradiction between the Egyptian people's interests and the Syrian people's interests.

In fact the opposite is the case: We were at one point linked to Syria by a unique experiment, that is, the union. We were also linked to Syria by a struggle experiment, namely national liberation in 1973. And Syria is an Arab state whose territory is partly under occupation. Egypt is working to free Syrian territory from the claws of occupation and to liberate it, just as it liberated the Arab territory of Sinai. So we welcome the atmosphere of accord whose signs can be seen at present. We welcome the mediation efforts being made to strengthen Arab solidarity in general. But we confirm that there are no direct Egyptian-Syrian contacts at this stage. In fact this rapprochement must be used to strengthen Arab solidarity as well as the peace process in the Middle East. In any case, Egypt does not rush matters.

AL-HAWADITH: What about Egyptian-Libyan relations? Are they following the same course?

Al-Biltaji: Egypt's position toward Libya is both firm and clear. For our part, we have no dispute or differences with Libya over borders. And Egypt does not demand anything of Libya. And we have nothing to do with internal matters there. Our relationship with the Libyan people is a historic one, as we are linked by ties of blood, affinity, kinship, mutual sympathy, geographical proximity, and common interests. So there is no contradiction between us and the fraternal Libyan people.

As for relations at the official level, Egypt's position is firm in this regard. All we want is relations of good-neighborliness, respect for both states' national will, and noninterference in internal affairs. At the same time we must ensure the safety of Egyptian borders and Egyptian security. We hope that what is declared corresponds to what is concealed, and that what is disclosed corresponds to what is sought. If such correspondence and credibility occur, then relations with Libya will certainly witness objective relaxation.

AL-HAWADITH: Egyptian-U.S. relations need to be assessed between the end of the Reagan era and the start of the Bush era. How do you view the course of these relations in the coming period?

Al-Biltaji: Egyptian-U.S. relations are cordial and characterized by cooperation in numerous areas, whether in the economic or military fields. Apart from the Egyptian military debts problem with the United States, in which the United States has not responded to Egypt's just demands, there are no disputes or problems. In fact there is cooperation and economic aid at various levels. There are contacts and consultations at the level of the two leaderships with a view to strengthening peace prospects in the region. And we must praise the results of recent contacts which persuaded the U.S. Administration to initiate a dialogue with the PLO. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Reports on the coup in Sudan indicate that those who embarked on it are loyal to [former Sudanese President] Al-Numayri. Do you not believe that this may adversely affect Egyptian-Sudanese relations in view of Al-Numayri's presence in Cairo?

Al-Biltaji: This certainly must not have a negative impact on relations with Sudan, as these relations are both deep-rooted and historic. They are relations of two peoples, mutual interests, and common destiny—historic and geographic relations. Furthermore, Egypt has nothing to do with and does not interfere in Sudan's internal affairs. This fact must be made very clear. Egypt deals with the legitimate Sudanese authorities. It has always done that and will always do that. It deals with the legitimate Sudanese authorities, represented by the Sudanese regime supported by the people in fraternal Sudan. And it is certainly not Egypt's way to try to circumvent those legitimate authorities. [passage omitted]

Libya

Soccer Match Near Al-Rabitah Complex Cancelled

'Terrorism,' Cancellation Linked

LD2001152689 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text of statement issued by the General Libyan Arab Football Federation on the cancellation of the international soccer match between the Libyan and Algerian national teams scheduled to be held 20 January at Tripoli International Stadium]

[Text] In the framework of strengthening the historical unionist plan between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Algeria, and in appreciation of the prominent, unified pan-Arab stance collectively adopted by Algeria and the Arab motherland in support of the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in its brave confrontation with the recurring official aggressive terrorism undertaken by the government of the terrorist Reagan, it has been decided to award the result of the international match, which was scheduled to take place today at the 11 June Stadium in Tripoli as part of the World Cup competition, in favor of the fraternal Algerian Arab football team.

This decision stems from our firm belief that the green jamahiri team and the Algerian team are in fact one team and there should be no conventional competition between them. What is important is that a strong Arab team, which honors Arab sportsmen in the World Cup final...[transmission interrupted]

U.S. 'Aggression' Halts Game

LD2101193389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli 21 Jan (JANA)—The secretary of the Libyan Arab Football Federation of the Great Jamahiriyah has affirmed that it was the circumstances of the confrontation and the repeated U.S. aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah that prompted the federation to freeze participation in the four-team eliminatory world cup competitions for Group A.

At the meeting held in Tripoli, and attended by Dr (George Bisilatti) observer of the international soccer federation, and the head of the Algerian team delegation, he said that the 11 June stadium, the main international stadium in Tripoli, was only 60 km away from the Al-Rabitah pharmaceutical plant. The United States alleges that this plant is producing chemical weapons and threatens to hit it. Thousands of doctors, pharmacists, technicians, Libyans, men and women, and Arabs are staging a sit-in at this plant to protect it from these threats.

He said that at the time when the green jamahiri football team was going to the Ivory Coast on 4 January, the United States perpetrated its aggression against the two Arab Libyan Air Force planes over international waters.

He said that it had been conveyed to the International football Federation that we apologized for not holding international competitions under these conditions, in accordance with the laws and resolutions of the International Football Federation which prohibit this, and that the federation will be notified of our preparedness to hold international competitions as soon as the confrontation with the United States ends.

Clash in Tripoli Over Match

LD2101141789 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1317 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—The Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi gave Algeria the gift of a game, to be played between Libya and Algeria yesterday in Tripoli, in order to enable the 'brotherly Algeria' to qualify for the next round of the world championship. When it was announced that the qualifying match would not be played, a clash between 70,000 supporters and police occured. Serious incidents did not happen.

[Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian at 1320 GMT on 21 January in a similar report adds: "Supporters, with tickets, demanded that the game be played. Protests and clashes with the police occured; the police shot into the air. Afterwards, the shooting spread to other parts of the city, where—until the evening—groups of dissatisfied supporters gathered. Serious incidents, nevertheless, did not happen."]

The Libyan Football Association Issued the statement today which explained the Libyan leadership's move as due to 'the high assessment of national and patriotic standpoint which brotherly Algeria took in the Libyan confrontation with the U.S. aggression.' The gift was also explained by the 'deep conviction' that 'there cannot be competition between the Libyan and Algerian sides.

Al-Rabitah 'Masses' Pray for Pilots' Souls

LD2001145689 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The masses, who are staging a sit-in alongside the doctors, pharmacists and nurses at al-Rabitah pharmaceutical factory in the city of Gharyan, have been joined by the masses of the people's congresses of Tripoli, Gharyan, and Al-Aziziyah. Today they carried out prayers of the absent for the souls of the two pilots who bravely confronted the U.S. aggression against the people of Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

'Masses' March on Factory

LD2201161689 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Al-Rabitah, Ay al-Nar 22, [22 January] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the Basic People's Congresses [of] Abu Zayyan and Ousdan [not further identified] at the municipality of Gharyan yesterday marched on the al-Rabitah pharmaceutical factory in the city of Gharyan and held an ordinary session within its second session for 1988. The masses of the two congresses joined the delegation of the People's Congresses in the Philippines and the doctors, pharmacists and families who are picketing the factory.

Arab 'Sources' on Coming Dialogue With U.S.

NC2101205989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Rabat have said that the administration of U.S. President George Bush has given its approval in principle for the initiation of a dialogue with Libya, and conveyed this approval to three Arab capitals. The approval came after Libya gave assurances, which remain unknown, regarding the factory producing medicines.

The Arab sources disclosed that the dialogue between Libya and Washington, which will aim to remove all the causes of tension between the two countries, will commence at the end of next month.

JANA Comments on Reagan's 'Defeats'

LD2101160489 Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT 21 Jan 89

["Reagan Ends With Defeat and Peoples Curse."—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Reagan left for ever the Presidency of the United States amidst the joy of world peace loving forces and freedom fighters he left with the curse of the peoples who were burnt with the fire of American terrorism throughout the 8 years after the farce elections brought about a failed actor to the post of president.

We do not know whether it is a historic leaving worthy of recording or an inevitable result of conflict between the forces of good and evil that the black register of Reagan began with the defeat of his arrogance over the Libyan Arab people and its great revolution when aggression was put down over the Gulf of Sidra in 1981 and that black record ends with another defeat at the hands of the Libyan Arab people, also, who thanks to its steadfastness was able to teach stupid Reagan a harsh lesson on the defence of peoples for their freedom and choice and not that alone as this realized a unique nationalist unanimity in the confrontation against American bragging and a rare international unity against it.

During that period, also, the Reagan terrorist plots against the great Al- Fatih revolution and its leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi suffered defeat and loss despite ithe massive advanced technology, the amassing of the fleets, the movement of the military satellites, hundreds of bomber aircraft and jets for refuelling in the air devoted by Reagan to undermine Jamahiriyah which is the example and the leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution through the allocation of 33 warplanes alone to attack the house of the leader and members of his family in mid Al-Tayr [April] 1986.

[Word indistinct] that date American aggression on the Gulf of Sidra was defeated in the month of Al-Marikh [March] 1986 besides the attempts of economic and political blockade and the hatching of press disinformation which the Reagan administration itself admitted its total failure and the impossibility of relying on such means to harness the Libyan Arab people and dissuade it from its principled stances.

In the world, the black record of Reagan is full of the most horrific defeats and worst military and political scandals since the Vietnam War from the invasion of Grenada, the downfall of the American intervention in Lebanon where the American military lost 250 Marines whom Reagan sent to that mad adventure and despite the bombs dropped by its jets and the help from its cannons of its gunboats poured on the people of Lebanon and passing by the defeat of its campaign, pressure and direct intervention against the world liberation movements and American series of plots in order to destabilize the peaceful countries and hatching of the plots to overthrow regimes, the downfall of its agents one after another.

History will not keep anything for this terrorist except the series of scandals and the Americans find nothing to remember him for except those defeats, bad reputation, spread of AIDS or the one thousand American dead left by the Reagan mad policies and the millions of starving and destitutes overcrowding the pavements in American cities.

It is an end if the world did not live its facts it would have thought that it was before an end to the scenes of the films which Reagan failed to become their hero and lived them when the farce destiny brought about Reagan as president...It is an appropriate end for that who was overwhelmed by the imagination of power...and the feeling of arrogance, domination and racism made him believe that the world with its population, seas and gulfs are between brackets or low enough to be painted by the colours of the American flag... He fell and collapsed without taste, colour or scent except the scent of scandals and defeat from whom everybody is trying to avoid like the fatally diseased or the suspected of plague gathering the facts of his downfall with the hope that they would make material for a scenario for Hollywood and its fantasies otherwise only the dustbin of history will be awaiting it.

Reagan has fallen in failure and defeat but Jamahiriyah remains steadfast and effective and the great Al-Fatih revolution and its leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi remain steadfast and tall meeting challenge by challenge and the Libyan Arab people continue to give the example of steadfastness and resistance and the belief in freedom and commitment to the principles of victory shall prevail and triumph over terrorism whatever the power protecting may be.

Here is the leaf of Reagan falling dead and here is Great Jamahiriyah standing tall as a revolutionary fortress and a unionist unifying force and a world forum for the revolution and defence for freedom.

And here is the people of Great Jamahiriyah exercising the people's power and sovereignty in people's congresses enjoying its power from (?the power) of its great revolution guided by its green thinking and committed to its principles and united around its leader strengthened by its glorious green charter of Human Rights and would not submit and compromise whatever the might of the tyrant may be facing challenge by challenge along the path of the unity of the Arab nation and the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea and victory for freedom and its defence everywhere in the world.

U.S. Aircraft Carriers Ordered Away From Coast

NC2201083389 Valletta Voice of the Mediterranean in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] A U.S. official has confirmed that his government was compelled to order its aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean to keep away from the Libyan coast. In a statement to the Voice of America, the U.S. official said that the order was issued to avoid any Libyan reaction against the aircraft carriers.

Al-Qadhdhafi Reportedly Asks Abu Nidal To Leave
NC2101103689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, 21 Jan (MENA)—The French weekly LE POINT has disclosed that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asked Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] to leave his residence in one of the Libyan capital's suburbs in order to avert U.S. intervention in Libya. In its edition to be published on Monday, the magazine says Abu Nidal responded to Col al-Qadhdhafi's request and left for a camp in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' Valley.

JANA 'Sorry' About Egyptian Verbal Attack
LD2101082589 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0753 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Jan (JANA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM yesterday interviewed the Egyptian president. In the interview, the Egyptian president attacked the Great Jamahiriyah and the brother leader of the revolution.

JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on this and said we are very sorry that, despite the halting of the propaganda campaign between the two countries, the Egyptian president has violated promises made in this regard. He added that the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison will not respond to these statements and will content itself with conveying this statement to the Arab countries and broadcasting it to the Libyan Arab people.

Al-Qadhdhafi Thanks Jordan's King for Support
JN2001110089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Jan 89 p 16

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—His Majesty King Husayn has received the following cable from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi:

Brother King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: On behalf of your Libyan brothers and sisters who are struggling against the unjust big powers, and in my own name, I greet you and the ministers of foreign afairs, health, and information in the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for your firm stand against the state terrorism and repeated aggression against Al-Rabitah village and Khalij al-Bumbah after the Gulf of Sidra. The aggression was defeated thanks to the Arab nation's unified stand.

The fleets retreated not because of an equivalent Libyan military force, but because of an international stand stemming from the unity of the Arab stand. You have added an immortal and shining example to our Arab nation's contemporary history. This example would not have been set by one hand only, but was set by the hands of all of you, because this is an honor to all of you. You have returned to the Arab nation its prestige and sovereignty before the world, thanks to this unforgettable unifed stand. I hope we will pledge from now on to achieve the Arab nation's unity in all fields, on all fronts, and at all battles in the entire Arab homeland.

[Signed] Your brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

Iranian Leaders Send Messages to Al-Qadhdhafi
LD2101180889 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador in Tripoli Mohammad Kazem Khonsari Saturday presented President 'Ali Khamene'i's message to Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Qadhdhafi had earlier sent a message to President Khamene'i.

In his one-hour meeting with the Libyan leader, Khonsari condemning the U.S. attack on two Libyan MiG's said such mischiefs by Washington were not surprising. He also recalled the criminal missile attack on an Iranian passenger plane in July last year which killed all 290 passengers on board.

Khonsari also conveyed Al-Qadhdhafi a message from Acting Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In response, the Libyan leader thanked Iranian officials for their revolutionary stands and their backing for Libya.

Tunisia's Baccouche Attends Joint Body Meeting

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi
LD2001031589 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Mr Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister of sisterly Tunisia. The meeting was attended by brother Habib Ammar, minister of state and personal adviser to the president of the republic, brother Abdelhamid Escheikh, minister of foreign affairs, and brother Chedli Neffati, minister of the interior.

The brother leader gave a dinner banquet in honor of brother Hedi Baccouche, and the delegation accompanying him. The banquet was attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, the brother secretary of the general people's committee and the brother secretary of the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison.

Body Meets; Baccouche Comments

LD2001101189 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Arab Libyan-Tunisian Follow-up Higher Committee held its first meeting in Tripoli today. It was planned during the unionist working visit paid by the brother leader to fraternal Tunisia on 8 December. The committee includes Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud; brother Hedi Baccouche, prime minister; Colonel al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi; the secretary of the General People's Committee; the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison; the brother minister of state and special adviser to the president of the Republic of Tunisia; and the brother Tunisian interior minister. [passage omitted]

The Tunisian prime minister made a statement on arrival at Tripoli International Airport:

[Begin Baccouche recording] I carry the greetings, love, and appreciation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the Tunisian Government and people to the leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhadhfi, the Libyan leadership, and the fraternal Libyan people.

Today we visit fraternal Libya to take part in the meeting of the Tunisian-Libyan Follow-Up Higher Committee, the committee the two countries' leaders have entrusted with the task of looking after joint unionist action, invigorating this action, and opening up ways for its expansion and comprehensiveness. This is an extension of what we began 7 November, whether at meetings of the two leaders, or during the successful visits to Tunisia by the brothers 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, Colonel al-Khuwaylidi, Umar al-Muntasar, and visits we have paid to Libya. This visit is the continuation of an action aimed at realizing solidarity and unity, given that we all belong to one nation, in the past, at present, and especially in the future.

It pleases me and the delegation accompanying me to salute the steadfastness of the Libyan people and the wisdom of its leadership in the face of current challenges. We also reiterate the expression of our solidarity with them both, our standing by their side, and our full support for them. [end recording]

Minutes Signed; Baccouche Leaves

LD2001143989 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The minutes of the Libyan Arab-Tunisian Higher Follow-Up Commission meetings were signed this morning in Tripoli. They were signed by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and brother Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister of fraternal Tunisia. The signing ceremony was attended by Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi; the brother secretary of the General People's Congress; the secreary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foriegn Liaison; brother Habib Ammar, the minister of state and adviser to the president of the Tunisian Republic; brother Abdlhamid Escheikh, the Tunisian minister of foreign affairs; brother Chedli Neffati, the Tunisian minister of interior; the high commissioner of the Great Jamahiriyah in Tunisia; and the Tunisian high commission in the Great Jaahiriyah.

The minutes of the meetings dealt with the organizing and coordination cooperation in all fields between the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia. The minutes also provide for the formation of joint sectoral committees to implement what was agreed between the brother leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Brother Hedi Baccouche and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this morning. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Palestine Representation Raised to Embassy Level

LD2101131889 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Rabat, Jan. 21 (MAP)—The State of Palestine has decided to raise the level of its representation in Morocco to the level of embassy, a communique of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation announced Friday in Rabat.

The decision received the Moroccan Government's agreement, the communique said, recalling in this respect Morocco's constant positions in favour of the Palestinian people's just cause and of its legitimate struggle to exercise its sovereignty and its rights within its independent state.

Sudan

Government MiG-23 Downed Over Nasir 21 Jan

SPLA Claims Downing

EA2101154689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The SPLA forces of unity campaign today shot down a MiG-23 fighter over the besieged town of Nasir in upper Nile at 0815 hours. The jet fighter was shot down by a unit of SAM-7 air defense battery installed early this week around the town. This is the third MiG-23 jet fighter to be lost by Sadiq al-Mahdi within a 6-week period. [passage omitted]

Details of the fate and nationality of the pilot will follow.

Defense Minister's Announcement

EA2101165389 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 21 Jan—The minister of defense and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the chief of the general staff and deputies of the chief of the general staff, have expressed their regret at the death of Flight Colonel [word indistinct] (Mukhtar Muhammadayn), whose (?aircraft was shot down) this morning while engaging (?rebel) forces in the Nasir area in the southern region. [passage omitted]

The statement said that the aircraft of the martyr (Mukhtar Muhammadayn) was making its ninth sortie when it was hit by a SAM missile, causing a mid-air explosion. [passage omitted]

More on Downing

NC2101163189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Jan (MENA)—The rebel forces in Nasir City in southern Sudan downed a Sudanese Armed Forces plane with a missile this morning. The plane exploded and its pilot was killed.

Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Majid Khalil, the Sudanese defense minister, and Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, commander in chief of the the Armed Forces and chief of staff, issued a statement praising the skill of the pilot of the plane, who was attacking the rebel groups around Nasir City. The statement noted that the Sudanese Armed Forces carried out eight successful air sorties against the rebels' positions during the past 2 days, and scored direct hits. Twenty-four rebels were killed as a result and their weapons were seized.

Attack Repulsed, 'Rebels' Killed

EA2201172989 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The general High Command has issued a statement announcing that the Armed Forces have repulsed an intensive attack by outlaws attempting to penetrate the defense lines around Nasir town. The attack resulted in 24 rebels killed and the capture of large quantities of arms and ammunition. [passage omitted]

Al-Mirghani Briefed

EA2201172889 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Jan—Ahmad al-Mirghani, Chairman of the head of States Council, has been briefed on the security situation in Nasir in Upper Nile. This occurred today when his excellency met General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, who confirmed that the situation of the Armed Forces in the Nasir area is reassuring, stressing their ability to repulse any rebel attacks. He said the siege around the town will be broken soon. He added that the Armed Forces will teach the outlaws a lesson they will never forget.

With regard to the siege of the area, the commander in chief said that the outlaws normally choose an isolated area, remote and close to the border to facilitate their supply and weapons lines. They mass large numbers of rebels and this is what happened in Nasir which is close to (Balgham) camp in Ethiopia. They also exploited the fall conditions to besiege Nasir.

Commentary on MiG Downing

EA2101210789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Jan 89

["SPLA commentary"]

[Text] We now present an SPLA commentary. As you have just heard in the news, the Air Defence Unit of the SPLA shot down a MiG-23 jet fighter over Nasir. This plane is the third MiG-23 plane to be shot down by our forces in less than 6 weeks. The SPLA has before drawn the public attention in Sudan and the world at large to the gross interference of foreign countries on the side of Khartoum in what is essentially a war between Sudanese.

For those who find our story difficult to believe, 11th December is a day to remember. Then we captured a MiG-23 jet fighter with its Libyan pilot, Lieutenant (Sulayman Khalifah al-Shitati), alive. Both the pilot and the plane are now in good condition in the hands of the SPLA. The same day, another MiG-23 jet fighter was shot over southern Sudan.

It is very much unfortunate that whereas the masses of the Sudanese people are busy day and night to bring about peace to our war-torn country, Al-Sadiq and Al-Turabi busy themselves with intensifying the war and inviting foreign powers to fight their senseless war. Perhaps it is because of this that the Al-Sadiq and Al-Turabi dual alliance have persistently rejected peace and turning a deaf ear to the genuine aspirations of the Sudanese people to settle our outstanding problems peacefully. Their stand against the Sudanese peace initiative is a glaring proof of this antipeace stand from these warmongers.

We would like to assure Al-Sadiq and Al-Turabi and all warmongering elements that whereas the SPLM/SPLA will leave no stone unturned in the search of peace, it will not be left for a minute in self-defence. This war, which has been imposed on the masses of our people, will only be brought to an end by the same masses exerting continuous and unfailing efforts to force the present government into submitting to the popular will.

What our people need is peace, a honorable peace. Al-Sadiq chose a road of war and this will lead him nowhere. More planes will continue to fall as long as

Al-Sadiq insists on the military solution. But what the masses of the Sudanese people should be aware of is that it is you who foot the bill for all this foreign intervention.

The present pathetic state of the economy and rocketing inflation have (?caused) [word indistinct] in Al-Sadiq's involvement with foreign powers. In fact, he is paying his own personal debt at the expense of the sovereignty of the Sudan. For how shall we stand aloof to watch the country being run down and sold in daylight? [sentence as heard] This is a question all patriots and peace-loving Sudanese must answer today, not tomorrow.

Al-Mahdi on Government Talks, Libyan Pilots

NC2001173889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 20 Jan (MENA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has disclosed that he will deliver a statement before the Constituent Assembly this Monday [23 January], in which he will explain the outcome of consultations among the Al-Ummah Party, the Islamic Front, the southern parties, and the Sudanese National Party [not further identified], on the formation of the new government, expected to be announced within the next few days.

In press statements today, Al-Mahdi said his statement will explain the stand of the Democratic Unionist Party on participation in the new government. [passage omitted]

As for the Sudanese Government's mediation efforts to release the Libyan pilots who were recently taken prisoner by the people's movement [SPLM], the prime minister said there are no developments with regard to the issue, adding that the pilots are still being held prisoner.

Al-Mahdi on Return of Citizens From Libya

NC2001171189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Jan (MENA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has asserted that there are no restrictions on the return of Sudanese citizens who had immigrated to Libya during the reign of former President Ja'far Numayri. He affirmed that his government will not prevent any Sudanese from returning to his homeland.

Al-Mahdi responded to a reporter's question on rumors that 5,000 Sudanese citizens residing in Libya have been prevented from returning to Sudan. He said that several groups of Sudanese nationals have recently returned to Sudan from Libya.

Tunisia

Reportage on Visit by Egypt's Butrus Ghali

Begins Visit, Makes Statement

LD2101052489 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Tunis yesterday [20 January] evening for an official visit at the invitation of Mr Habib Ben Yahya, secretary of state for foreign affairs. The visit will last until 24 January.

In a press statement, Dr Butrus Ghali expressed his pride at visiting Tunisia, a visit considered to be the first by an Egyptian official at ministerial level for more than 10 years. He said that the aim of the visit was to strengthen the excellent relations existing between Tunisia and Egypt and to hold consultations on Arab and African issues, as well as questions pertaining to nonalignment.

He said that Tunisian and Egyptian diplomats continuously held consultations in international arenas proceeding from the fact that they share the same objective: to work for the strengthening of Arab-African solidarity and bolster the Nonaligned Movement.

Ghali voiced the hope that 1989 would be the year for bolstering the Arab-African dialogue which began in Cairo in March 1977, even more so because the Arab world and the African world need each other. He stressed the importance of the role that both Tunisia and Egypt could play in strengthening Arab-African cooperation.

Meets With Baccouche

NC2101163889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, 21 Jan (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche here today. Dr Ghali also held a series of talks with Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, and with Habib Ben Yahya, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry. The discussions dealt with Arab and African issues and with bilateral relations.

Dr Ghali and the Tunisian foreign minister held wide-ranging talks at the Foreign Ministry, during which they reviewed various issues of mutual interest. Both sides reached agreement on strengthening coordination between the Egyptian and Tunisian Foreign Ministries in the various international circles and in the sphere of bilateral relations.

Dr Ghali said his visit to Tunisia embodies the Egyptian will to move bilateral relations toward new horizons of cooperation and interaction in various fields. He added that his consultations with the Tunisian brothers underlined the importance of moves to strengthen unity of Arab action in the coming stage, which will require the mobilization of all efforts to safeguard the Palestinian people's rights as well as the mobilization of resources to develop a joint action to fulfill the higher pan-Arab interests.

On Arab League, Syria

NC2301113889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, 23 Jan (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed that there can be no peace in the Middle East unless the Palestinian people have their own state. He added: We are awaiting the Israeli state's recognition of the Palestinian state and the start of a dialogue between the two warring parties under an international peace conference attended by the United States and the Soviet Union, the two superpowers, who must participate in any settlement of regional disputes, as well as Western Europe, with France and Britain at the forefront.

In an interview with the Tunisian weekly AL-SABAH published today, Dr Ghali pointed out that Egypt will not return to the Arab League unless this is effected by Arab unanimity, noting that the League itself had suspended Egypt's membership. Therefore, he added, if it seeks to readmit Egypt, it must take the initiative.

He stressed: We welcome any move that could lead to Egypt's return to the League, on the basis of Arab unanimity, in order to avoid any marginal differences that might divert our attention from our fundamental issue—the Palestinian issue. He stressed that Egyptian diplomacy continually seeks to find a just settlement of this issue on the basis of the UN principles, including the principle of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Dr Ghali emphasized that further cooperation and coordination between Egypt and Tunisia will be witnessed in the coming days. In this respect he pointed to the need for Egyptian and Tunisian officials, during a meeting expected to be held soon between the two countries, to raise the issue of cancelling entry visa requirements.

Regarding Egypt's relations with Syria, Dr Ghali said that Egypt welcomes any dialogue with Syria that could promote Arab unity. In his interview with the Tunisian paper AL-SABAH, Dr Ghali denied that a plan exists to establish a new bloc involving Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the YAR.

Yemen Arab Republic

Reportage on Visit of Iraq's Saddam Husayn

Arrives 21 Jan

JN2101133789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1304 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Sanaa, 21 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn arrived in Sanaa this afternoon on an official visit to the YAR. He was accorded a grand official reception headed by YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. [passage omitted]

President Saddam Husayn is accompanied by a delegation comprising Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

Confers With President Salih

JN2101180889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Brother leaders Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and Saddam Husayn, president of the sisterly Republic of Iraq, held a closed meeting at 1915 today at the Presidency House. They reviewed a number of issues of interest to our Arab nation in light of recent Arab and world developments.

They discussed brotherly bilateral ties and ways and means to further them in various spheres in the interests of the common goals and aspirations of the two brotherly peoples and the Arab nation at large.

His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had [passage indistinct] in addition to growing bilateral ties and ways and means to further them. [passage omitted].

Receives Medal From Salih

JN2101203189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Sanaa, 21 Jan (INA)—A ceremony to decorate President Saddam Husayn with the Republic's Medal of the First Class, the highest medal in the YAR, was held at the Presidency House in Sanaa this evening. YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih bestowed the medal.

Because of the appreciation of the YAR leadership, government, and people for President leader Saddam Husayn's principled Arab stands; because of the distinguished fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries; and because of pride in the heroic role of the Iraqi people and Army in defending both the homeland and the glorious Arab nation, a republican decree was issued in Sanaa today granting his excellency the Republic's Medal of the First Class. [passage omitted]

Delivers Speech

JN2201103789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2157 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Sanaa, 21 Jan (INA)—A session of official talks was held at the Presidency House this evening between the Republic of Iraq and the YAR. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn led the Iraqi side to the talks, while YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih led the YAR side. [passage omitted]

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn reiterated his great appreciation of the participation of the fraternal Yemenis in the battle for defending the Arab nation's eastern borders and affirmed that the annals of history will document this pan-Arab and human stand reflecting the greatness and esteem that are becoming of such a stand. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn blessed the cooperation and understanding attained between any two Arab states, considering that such cooperation serves the Arab nation. Following is the text of the speech delivered by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the occasion:

[Passage omitted] "We voiced our belief and sentiments as regards the contribution of our Yemeni brothers, along with their Iraqi brothers, toward defending the Arabs' territory, sanctuaries, and security. No words can express what I have to say when issues are discussed in a deep and comprehensive manner allowing for a genuine and honest analysis of events.

Brother President, the idea of it pierces into the depth of my body and sentiments. It is there in every idea and line. I know what the annals of history will write on this issue; as the issue of the coming of men from the YAR to the Iraqi territory to contribute to the efforts to repel a malicious and treacherous aggression that was basically directed against the Arab nation and not against Iraq only is not an issue that can go unnoticed or unappreciated.

This decision that you and your brothers made to achieve this objective—this decision which was made under the circumstances prevailing at that time and considering the genuine and noble motives behind it—was not an easy one.

Brother President, despite your deep faith, which I know of, in Arabism and the prerequisites of Arabism and in the pan-Arab security and the components of that security; this step would, allow me to say, not have materialized had it not been for the fact that you are a part of a people with rich and deep-rooted traditions. You are the offspring of a people with firmly established traditions and with a deep commitment to Arabism and the prerequisites of Arabism. I in the YAR reiterate our great appreciation for you, dear president, and for your brothers who contributed toward making this decision, toward preparing for that decision, and toward uttering that decision. I also voice my appreciation for this to the fraternal YAR people.

When we talk, Brother President, on any support involving two or more Arab states, you first and foremost know, that any bilateral or multilateral cooperation among any group of Arab states, that such substantial cooperation, is designed to do nothing but serve the Arab nation and other states. Such cooperation cannot be motivated by any motives other than the real and genuine ones. We are talking about the desire to develop Arab life. What is envisaged in this regard is expanding the areas of cooperation and bringing about a better situation before the Arab people who share this cooperation to improve their status, thus allowing them to serve the Arab nation and the Arab people in Arab states.

The step can be understood in light of its circumstances and in view of its direct meanings and implications, as the YAR-Iraqi cooperation is not a new phenomenon. No, this cooperation has historic roots. The volume of Iraqi-YAR cooperation might be less than what it used to be in the past, let us say, 10 years ago. Perhaps, Iraq or the YAR needed more bilateral cooperation than the other if a criterion other than the genuine one is used. Perhaps, the YAR or Iraq needed this cooperation 5, 10, or 2 years ago more than the two states need it now.

This would have brought about more expanded cooperation. God be praised, the YAR today enjoys a status of stability and is placing itself on the road of construction and progress. As for Iraq, it has come out of an 8-year internecine war and begun to make serious and steady strides on the road of reconstruction, scientific and technological progress, despite the fact that these steps were hampered and interrupted because of the war.

We have always firmly believed that any hand, no matter how strong and capable it might be, will become stronger and more efficient and accurate in the areas of construction and giving if it were to join other Arab hands. The Arab capabilities, as we understand them, are not the grand total of these capabilities. Nay, they are the outcome of their interaction. The materialization of any substantial Arab interaction will yield an outcome that is many times the grand total of Arab capabilities, as interaction creates human resources, mental abilities, and economic and scientific capabilities which are unimaginable and unachievable in the absence of a real human, pan-Arab, and scientific process of interaction.

So, when we head in this basic direction as regards bilateral relations, we serve the peoples of the two fraternal states. Anyhow, such bilateral cooperation is bound to serve the interests of the Arab nation. If this cooperation assumes larger proportions, it is also bound to head in the same direction.

Brother President, brothers, I once again thank you. " [passage omitted]

Addressed by Salih

JN2201083389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Excerpts] A session of official talks was held at the Presidency House last night between our country and the fraternal Republic of Iraq under the co-chairmanship of brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

At the beginning of the session, the brother president and secretary general of the General People's Congress, made a speech welcoming his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his accompanying delegation and said:

[Begin Salih recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, dear brothers members of the delegation accompanying His Excellency President Saddam. In my name and on behalf of your brothers—command, government, and people—we welcome you warmly in your second homeland, the YAR. [words indistinct] The bilateral relations binding our two countries are historic, have their characteristics and traits, and date back to old times. The bilateral honest cooperation between the two fraternal countries is largely characterized by the absence of any of the feelings which usually accompany the presentation of favors and by the absence of the expectation of any service to be done in return. [passage omitted]

We are very happy over this noble and fraternal gesture by brother President Saddam, his comrades, and the Iraqi people and army to honor the Yemeni combatants in fraternal Iraq. We will not forget that our brothers in fraternal Iraq contributed in 1948 to the training of a number of cadres from the YAR. I extend all thanks and appreciation to his excellency the president, to the people, command, government, and army of fraternal Iraq for these pan-Arab and Islamic stands.

We reiterate that we will remain together in the trench of honor in defense of this Arab nation and that any present or future cooperation between the two countries or among any other states will not constitute any political axis or block. No, this will be economic and technical cooperation. This cooperation which will be followed by subsequent steps will not be directed against any other country or state.

We repeat our welcome of you in your second homeland, the YAR. Thanks. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause] [end recording]

Attends Talks, Departs 22 Jan

JN2201152089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Excerpts] His Excellency brother Saddam Husayn, president of the fraternal Republic of Iraq, and his accompanying delegation left Sanaa at 1200 today following a 2-day visit to our country. [passage omitted]

The final session of talks between our country and the Republic of Iraq was held at the Presidential Palace in Sanaa this morning under brother leaders Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Saddam Husayn. They completed discussing the topics which were tackled in the session yesterday evening. These topics included the overall current Arab and international issues as well as the issues of interest to our Arab nation and the strong fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and ways to enhance and promote them in various fields in a way that will serve the supreme interest of both peoples in the two fraternal countries and that will also fulfill the aspirations of our Arab nation.

The session was attended by members of the two sides to the talks. The brother president leader presented to his brother Saddam Husayn, as a token gift, a golden sword called the Al-Muhannad sword. Yemen's history is famous for making such swords.

After the talks, brother leaders Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Saddam Husayn answered questions from the Yemeni and Iraqi news media. Asked about pan-Arab security, how to achieve it and whether Yemeni-Iraqi talks included coordination between the two sides to attain pan-Arab security in coordination with other Arab states, and asked about his assessment of the outcome of these talks, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said:

Have you not seen the promotion of fraternal relations between Iraq and Yemen? Have you seen any slogans belittling these relations? Are these relations not based on both interaction and normal fraternal solidarity? Together we are taking steps which we believe are useful for our Iraqi and Yemeni peoples and, consequently, for the Arab nation. When we discuss pan-Arab security, everyone of us searches for anything that will provide security and safety to all Arabs and to the neighboring nations. This will also enhance world security and reassure mankind. However, and to begin with, we do not raise great slogans and then take small steps. Rather we take steps in light of a general analysis on which we agree.

We presume that such steps will be steady and can be realized, so abidance by them will be accurate. Moreover, we can take the second step based on the previous one from which we cannot retreat. This is the general principle that we follow. At any rate, the fraternal interaction among all Arabs or the interaction on a bilateral level will improve the Arab situation, including the improvement of Arab security.

Asked whether he believes that peace has actually been achieved or whether the conditions for peace have been met with Iran, the Iraqi president said: We hope we will reach a full, comprehensive, and final peace agreement with Iran. However, what has happened is that there is a cease-fire now. This will give an opportunity to Iran to deeply consider the consequences of war. Hence, Iran will arrive at what should be done to serve its people and consequently to achieve regional stability so a lasting peace will be brought about. For our part, and as you had known, heard, and read since the very beginning of the war and until the cease-fire, we have raised the same slogan: We seek peace. We want security for us and for others. Asked about recent Iraqi moves and whether they are meant to create a homogeneous Arab entity in the interest of the Arab nation and to achieve the unity and solidarity of its peoples, the Iraqi president said: From the historical point of view, we must place things in the right perspective. As for my visit to the YAR, it is basically aimed at holding consultations with my brother the president, seeing the YAR people, thanking the brother president, and declaring appreciation for his support for Iraq during the war, and especially his sending of a Yemeni force to fight alongside the Iraqi Armed Forces.

From inside the YAR, I want to declare deep appreciation for the genuine Yemeni Arab people for their active, fraternal, and noble understanding of the conflict, which consisted of only Iraq defending the eastern gate to prevent the evil from reaching the Arab nation. This is the aim of the visit. It was not aimed at presenting Iraqi ideas, plans, or initiatives.

Asked about his impression of his visit to our country, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn said: The YAR was in my mind before I saw it with my eyes. Its image is not confined only to what is seen on the surface, but goes deep into history, with all the vocabulary that the Yemeni history contains. The YAR lives in my conscience. What I saw and dealt with in Yemen has strengthened this image. Yemen is held in high esteem in one's mind and imagination.

Brother leader President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the secretary general, was asked about his assesment of the pan-Arab meanings and dimensions of our country's support for fraternal Iraq. The brother leader president answered: The fact is that we feel embarrassed to be thanked for our stands toward fraternal Iraq as this is a brotherly and pan-Arab duty. Every Arab must support his brother in the event of any tragedy or whenever he feels endangered. This is a pan-Arab duty to which everybody must be committed. Very regrettably, not all the Arab countries shouldered their responsibility and rose to the level of responsibility in supporting our brothers under all circumstances, whether in Iraq, the Arab Maghreb, eastern Arab countries, or the Gulf.

This is a brotherly, pan-Arab, and Islamic duty, and we must support each other under all circumstances. The YAR's support for our brothers in Iraq is a pan-Arab duty to which thanks are not due. Had our abilities and circumstances permitted, we would have provided more than we did. What we provided was a token to the Iraqi soldier and people. The Iraqi people are able to defend themselves, and they did defend themselves. Ours was only a symbolic contribution to Iraq, which stood firm, repulsed the aggression, defended the Arab nation's eastern gate courageously and competently, and gave cause for pride to the Iraqis and to every Arab who boasts his belonging to this Arab homeland and the Arab nation.

On a question about Iraq's efforts to restore peace with Iran through the Geneva talks, and the adoption of a unified Arab stand to support those efforts, the brother leader secretary general said: We are fully confident that the Arab stand has developed more than ever before in all international conferences and gatherings toward the creation of a unified Arab opinion. Such an opinion is present at the moment. Even the international public opinion is supporting the peaceful trends aimed at bringing about a just peace in the Gulf and the Middle East in general. I believe that the world is moving in this direction. Asked about what the Zionist threats to Iraq represent in terms of striking at the developed Iraqi scientific progress in an attempt to obliterate both the Iraqi victories and the Palestinian uprising, the brother president leader [Col Salih], said:

Israel is an entity that has been transplanted into the Arab nation's body and it will continue to threaten the existence of this nation. Israel's strike at the Iraqi nuclear reactor and at the PLO headquarters in Tunis as well as the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] confirm this. I have constantly said that any Arab country which believes it is safe from Israeli threats has wrong calculations. Israel, which has been transplanted into the heart of the Arab nation, will continue to threaten every Arab country as well as any technological, scientific, or economic progress. Hence, we should rise to the level of responsibility and confront these threats and challenges with much firmness and strength. We should also confront those who support Israel with a loud, clear, and unequivocal voice.

Asked about the progress Iraq has achieved in terms of the independent Iraqi political decisionmaking away from pressures, the brother president leader said: We take pride in what fraternal Iraq has attained on the military and economic levels. This is a splendid, excellent model and we are proud of this military and economic capability which we regard as not only the property of Iraq but of the entire Arab nation under all circumstances.

Prime Minister Returns From Iraq, Jordan 22 Jan

JN2301081289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, and his accompanying delegation returned to Sanaa last night after a 5-day visit to the Republic of Iraq and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In an arrival statement, the prime minister expressed great pleasure at the results of the first meeting of the joint higher committee between our country and the two sisterly countries.

He said that the meetings produced positive and constructive results to serve the common interests and to reinforce the course of common Arab integration action. A number of agreements in the economic, cultural, [word indistinct], and oil fields were signed. This will achieve positive results in implementation of the wise instructions of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He added that during the visit he met with President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn to review the work of the joint committees and the progress achieved to develop bilateral relations and reinforce the pan-Arab action. [passage omitted]

President Cables Congratulations to George Bush

JN2001121089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jan 89

["Text" of cable from President Saddam Husayn to U.S. President George Bush—date not given]

[Text] His Excellency George Bush, President of the United States of America:

On the occasion of your assumption of your constitutional charge as President of the United States of America, we are glad to send to Your Excellency our best congratulations, wishing you continued success, health, and happiness, and the American people further progress.

On this occasion, we stress Iraq's eagerness to promote the existing cordial relations between the two countries in a manner serving the interests of our peoples and enhancing peace and security in our region and the world.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq

'Aziz Criticizes Iranian 'Behavior' During Talks

JN1901180789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said today: We expect Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative, to arrive in Baghdad next Friday at the conclusion of his scheduled visit to Tehran on Monday. In a statement to journalists after the departure of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez from Baghdad, Tariq 'Aziz added: The Iranian behavior during the previous negotiations departed from the technique and logic that are necessary to implement Security Council Resolution No 598.

'Aziz affirmed that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and his representative should straighten out matters and make the Iranian side come to the negotiations with a course that will achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace. The Iranian behavior did not contribute to achieving what was agreed upon on 8 August 1988 when the cease-fire was announced. Tariq 'Aziz said: We believe in the necessity of seeing what Eliasson will convey to us from his visit to Tehran. Iran's stand has torpedoed the limited agreement on the prisoners reached in Geneva, and this, consequently, obstructed the negotiations.

Confers With 'Arafat

JN1901183089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. They discussed developments in the Palestine question on the Arab and international levels, current developments in the Arab arena, and issues of common interest.

Tariq 'Aziz reiterated Iraq's full support for the PLO and the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territory to establish their free, independent state.

The meeting was attended by deputy chief of the RCC Liberation Movements Office; Brigadier General 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member; and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Baghdad.

ICRC Plane To Fly Iranian POW's Home

JN2101114989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1117 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA)—An International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] plane will fly home on Monday [23 January] a number of the Iranian prisoners of war whom Iraq decided to repatriate. This plane will make another trip on Tuesday to fly the rest of the 255 Iranian POW's whom Iraq decided to release without exchange.

On the other hand, ICRC Chairman Sommaruga expressed deep appreciation for President Saddam Husayn's decision to repatriate 255 Iranian POW's. In a message to the Foreign Ministry received today, the ICRC chairman described the decision as a generous and constructive one that the ICRC received with satisfaction. He added that the decision is a humanitarian gesture affirming Iraq's desire to find a solution to the issue of the Iraq-Iran war prisoners.

President Saddam Husayn announced during his reception of the participants in the second conference of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs on 11 January Iraq's decision to repatriate a number of Iranian POW's equal to the number of the participants in that conference.

'First Batch' Released

JN2301114289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1129 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—One hundred and thirty-one Iranian prisoners of war, representing the first batch of the 255 POW's whom President Saddam Husayn ordered to be released, left Baghdad for Tehran this morning aboard a Swiss plane chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross. [passage omitted]

Arens Presents Conditions for PLO Negotiations

TA1901200589 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
18 Jan 89 p 7

["Official minutes" of meeting between 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Moshe Arens, foreign minister, held 8 January in Paris at international conference for banning chemical weapons]

[Excerpts] Cairo—The Israeli minister presented a plan for resolving the Palestinian problem that included the following proposals:

—The Palestinian leadership abroad should be persuaded to completely cease its involvement in the disturbances inside the territories.

—The Egyptian Government should hold direct contacts with the Palestinian leadership inside the territories in order to contain these disturbances and discuss the Palestinian demands on this matter.

—The Palestinian leadership inside the territories will be determined by means of elections to be held in the occupied territories. These elections will determine the true representatives of the Palestinian people in the territories.

—Jordan will join these negotiations at a later date with the aim of conducting direct contact with Israel on the situation of the Palestinians and the status of the occupied territories.

—Israel believes that the best solution is Palestinian autonomy. The nature of this autonomy will be determined in Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian talks with Israel.

'Abd al-Majid: These ideas that you have put forward cannot receive any sort of endorsement from either Egypt or any other Arab country.

Arens: The Egyptian rejection represents rejection of the Camp David accords, which constitute the basis of Egyptian-Israeli relations. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid: The United States itself has become convinced of Palestinian moderation. Hence it adopted the decision to engage in a dialogue with the PLO.

Arens: This does not mean we should change our positions. The United States is still in the stage of initial exploration of Palestinian tendencies toward peace. According to our information, the first meeting did not lead to any substantial agreement with the PLO on any of the issues discussed. If this is the case with the United States, where will our differences with the PLO lead if we were to agree on holding talks? Sir, the gap is vast. We cannot adopt our decision before being sure of the reality and essence of peace.

If the PLO is serious with regard to peace, is it ready to alter the articles in its charter on Israel's destruction and annihilation? Is it ready to contribute to peace by stopping the disturbances in Israel? Is it ready to officially recognize Israel? Is it ready for this recognition to mean neighborliness and coexistence with Israel? Is it ready to negotiate with Israel without preconditions? And is it ready to actually come to an agreement with us on achieving security for Israel by its full compliance with the Israeli political plan?

'Abd al-Majid: Are these the Israeli conditions for negotiation with the PLO?

Arens: Yes. It is obvious that the success of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will mean a great deal for us in Israel. Despite our objection to the U.S. decision, we are sure that the new U.S. Administration will work to establish peace in the region while safeguarding Israeli security considerations so that we will not be subjected to threats from inside or out. Mr Shamir will discuss this matter in detail with U.S. President George Bush in February.

'Abd al-Majid: Does this mean that the success of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will be followed by an Israeli recognition of the PLO's right to be the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative?

Arens: This will happen by complying with the other conditions that will convince us of the PLO's seriousness to establish peace. [passage omitted]

Rabin Rules Out UN Presence in Territories

TA1901184789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has ruled out any UN presence in the territories as part of a political solution. Rabin also said he is ready to permit elections in the territories, provided these are preceded by 3 to 6 months of quiet. The defense minister was speaking to reporters for the territories at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. On the line is reporter Shlomo Berger:

We will not allow the United Nations to enter the territories, Rabin told reporters, and anyone making such a suggestion should get rid of his illusions. Rabin also said he is ready to permit elections in the territories, provided they are preceded by 3 to 6 months of quiet. The defense minister says the key to the solution in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is that residents of the territories must find representatives, but not from the PLO. He said Israel will not accept negotiations with the PLO because of its demand for a Palestinian independent state and the right of return for Palestinian refugees. But, he said, he favors Prime Minister Shamir's idea for an international conference on rehabilitating the Arab refugee camps.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 19 January adds: "Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin proposes a phased plan to solve the problem of the territories. He said the inhabitants must stop the violence for a period of 3 to 6 months, at the end of which they would be allowed to elect representatives, on the condition that they are prepared to negotiate a solution of the problem of the territories. A broadened autonomy would later be implemented in the territories. A confederation between the territories and Jordan, or between the territories and Israel would be set up at the end of the transition period. The Jewish settlements would remain in the territories, and the IDF would be in charge of security. Minister Rabin emphasized that the plan reflects his personal opinion."]

Rabin went on to say that 90 percent of incidents in the territories involve stone throwing. He said that during the past week the focal point of stone throwing has been schools in the territories. The defense minister said that officers as well as non-commissioned officers are now authorized to fire plastic bullets at stonethrowers even after the act, but soldiers must not open fire until they have first warned the stone throwers to stop. Rabin added that it is forbidden to fire at children involved in stone throwing. He said the purpose of opening fire is not to punish, but to catch the stone throwers.

UN Requests Use of 5 'Big' Jerusalem Hotels

JN2201125189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Amman, 22 Jan (INA)—The INA correspondent here learned today that the office of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization [UNTSO] in occupied Jerusalem has asked five big hotels in the holy city to evacuate their occupants as of the beginning of March.

A source close to the management of one of these hotels who wished to remain anonymous informed the INA correspondent in Amman that the managements of these hotels received official letters from UNTSO asking to rent all rooms of their hotels from the beginning of March. The source did not specify the duration of the requested booking.

Paper Cited on U.S. Plan for Israel-PLO Talks

TA2001075989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The Lebanese newspaper AL-SHIRA', which uncovered the Irangate scandal, reports on a U.S. plan for direct negotiations between the PLO and Israel: In the first stage, the uprising in the territories would be stopped for 3 months. After the uprising is stopped, the United States wants the PLO and organizations close to it to disband. In their place, a temporary Palestinian government would then be established. The Palestinian covenant would be canceled, its place taken by the declarations made by 'Arafat at the UN General Assembly session in Geneva and the ensuing news conference. After this government is established, talks would start on the establishment of a confederation between Jordan and this government; later on, a direct dialogue would commence between the Palestinian government and Israel under U.S. auspices, without participation of the Soviet Union or the United Nations.

This report by the Lebanese newspaper AL-SHIRA' has not been confirmed by any other source.

Six Said Held by Pro-Iranian Militia in Lebanon

TA2001184889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] In its current edition, the French weekly L'EXPRESS publishes a document attributed to the Iranian Consulate in Geneva, saying that six Israelis are being held captive by the pro-Iranian militia in Lebanon. According to the report, the Israelis are Zekharya Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Samir As'ad, Yehuda Katz, Yosef Fink, and Rahamim Alshekh. Our Paris correspondent Yo'av Tocker says that the document reached the hands of an Iranian Marxist-Leninist movement with branches in the Middle East and Western Europe in mysterious ways. The document does not say exactly where these captives are held.

The IDF spokesman this evening announced that regardless of the credibility of the report, the defense establishment holds anybody that keeps captives responsible for their fate. Israel has been making every effort to bring the captives back home to their relatives and will continue to do so. This is the IDF spokesman's announcement.

Further Reportage on Peres Visit to FRG

Meets Economic Minister

TA1901153589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] In today's meeting in Bonn between Finance Minister Shim'on Peres and FRG Economic Cooperation Minister Hans Klein, an agreement was reached on the investment of German money and Israeli research. Our correspondent Yig'al Rom reports that the agreement involves German investments in scientific and technological projects in Israel and an extensive economic plan according to which Germany would be ready to invest in Israel the sum of $1.5 billion over several years.

At the same time, the German minister urged Peres to continue decreasing Israel's investment in weapons development and to funnel the funds thus available to civilian industries. Bonn will accord extensive support to this policy, he said.

Meets Poland's Rakowski

TA2001202889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] A high-level meeting was held in Bonn this evening between Israeli and Polish representatives. Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres conferred with Polish Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski for a 45-minute meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere. After the meeting, Mr Peres said that he anticipates an improvement in relations with Poland. Mr Rakowski noted his satisfaction with progress in relations between the two countries.

Meets CPSU's Falin

TA2101105389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, this morning held a meeting in Bonn with Valentin Falin, head of the CPSU Central Committee International Department and one of the closest persons to Mikhail Gorbachev. The meeting lasted 90 minutes. The discussion included political issues, the situation in the Middle East, and the future of relations between the two countries. The talk was described as very good and open.

Valentin Falin told our correspondent in Bonn Yig'al Rom that the fact that the discussion was informal provided the opportunity for an open exchange of opinions on both sides' positions on the Middle East conflict. Falin added that in his opinion, time is now working in the direction of better relations between the USSR and Israel.

Minister Shim'on Peres said that he found Falin to be of an even-handed attitude that favors ensuring the security of all sides in the Middle East.

Dr Falin disclosed during the conversation that at the time, Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir proposed that the Soviets set up Army bases in Egypt, but that the USSR rejected the proposal.

Discusses Visit

TA2201072089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Mikha Friedman and Goni Savir—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Early this morning Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, returned from a brief visit to the FRG, during which he combined financial matters with meetings with a series of leaders and senior officials of a number of European countries. We have Shim'on Peres on the line. Good morning, sir.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Friedman] Contradictory reports were published over the weekend on the French president's intention to meet with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in April. You talked with Mitterrand 2 days ago. Did you hear anything about that from him?

[Peres] I heard from him that there will be no opposition to 'Arafat's visit on French soil. That is all I heard. I also heard, however, that the president persists in his objection to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

[Friedman] Reports have mentioned a possible meeting between him and 'Arafat in Cairo in April.

[Peres] That is possible, but I have not been told anything about it.

[Savir] You have rejected a Swedish proposal to hold talks with the PLO.

[Peres] Yes. I told the Swedish prime minister, who is also an old personal friend, that the PLO and the Palestinians must first of all cease terrorist activities. The problem of stone throwing is not merely one of physical danger; it also lies in the fact that it provides a constant psychological backup [last word in English]. They state constantly that there is nothing to talk about, that enmity and hostility persist.

I also explained to the Swedish prime minister why I believe it is preferable for the Palestinian representatives to be elected by people rather than by events.

[Friedman] During your visit to Europe, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin presented a new phased plan to promote peace in the region. Some say he did so in coordination with you. The plan implies a retreat from a basic Labor Party stand of upholding the international conference—which is not mentioned in Rabin's phased plan—as a mechanism capable of bringing all the involved parties to the negotiating table. This is one of the reasons the plan has been rejected by all the various Arab elements so far. Is the party then retreating, instead of going forward?

[Peres] We are not retreating. I think the international conference plan was part of the settlement with Jordan. Nowadays, too, I hear that the Likud is moving forward. Not only are we said to be retreating, they too are now ready to accept a sort of international conference under certain conditions. Everything has come belatedly, however, and under more difficult conditions. I think that rejecting Jordanian participation was a mistake on our part. Unwillingly, we have made room for the PLO, which is exploiting the situation to its benefit.

[Savir] You said that room has been made for the PLO. The phased plan includes elections in the territories.

[Peres] We said so before the elections. We said that if quiet is maintained in the territories, we will propose holding free political elections to enable the Palestinians to elect their representatives to the negotiations.

[Savir] Do you have partners for such elections? The PLO has forbidden East Jerusalem Arabs to participate even in municipal elections, and they will probably be even more adamant over elections in the territories.

[Peres] We have already seen that the PLO can change its stands. I remember, for instance, that although at first it opposed the 1976 municipal elections, it later changed its attitude. In Gaza, for instance, the PLO was against settling the refugee issue and building houses, but later changed its stands. Anyway, we are not obliged to have its consent. If, however, the Palestinians wish to launch serious negotiations for their own future, it would best be done by authorized elected representatives.

[Friedman] I reiterate my question: Why is the Alignment no longer insisting on convening an international conference? Is it because there was some...

[Peres, interrupting] This is really strange. The Alignment has never insisted on an international conference. What the Alignment said was that if an international opening is required to launch negotiations, there will be an international opening. It is no Alignment invention; we did not introduce this element into the picture. I believe that today, too, if an international opening is required, we would agree to it. There is no retreat or change on that point.

[Friedman] Meanwhile, the IDF is adopting a harsher policy toward residents of the territories. According to some reports, this is liable to cause an escalation. Are you satisfied with the extension of regulations on opening fire, which is reflected in an increased number of fatalities, and with the demolition of stone throwers' houses? You must have heard the criticism voiced by some of the leaders whom you met in Europe.

[Peres] I believe that, like myself, the defense minister is very interested in bringing about a de-escalation, in easing tension and calming tempers. None of us wishes to inflame the situation any further. I think thorough investigations should be carried out to make sure that at least those who are not directly involved in violent activities are not harmed. It should be remembered that our entire policy in the territories is one of reaction. Had there been no acts of violence, the IDF would not have had to fire.

[Savir] Perhaps the regulations on opening fire should be somewhat amended and the heavy-handed policy moderated.

[Peres] I do not know that ours is a heavy-handed policy. I think what is being attempted is a modification of the experience accumulated so far. I know that ways are constantly being sought to prevent damage and fatalities, which none of us are happy about.

[Savir] Mr Peres, the Cabinet will be asked today to approve President Herzog's trip to Emperor Hirohito's funeral. Are you satisfied with the fact that it will be the president who travels to the funeral to represent the state?

[Peres] The truth is that I have not heard the reasons for this decision.

[Savir] Were you not party to the decision?

[Peres] No, I was not.

[Savir] What do you think of it?

[Peres] I will form an opinion after I hear the considerations behind the decision. When I left, I was told that it had been decided that the president would not go. If that decision was reversed, I would indeed like to hear why.

[Friedman] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, thank you very much.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Egypt Opens Crossing Point to West Bank Residents

TA2001135489 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] AL-QUDS has learned that the responsible Egyptian authorities have decided to permit West Bank residents, as of yesterday, to visit Egypt via the Rafah crossing point, whereas previously they were allowed to do so via Jordan only. This decision was adopted on the basis of a personal request by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

According to instructions issued by the Egyptian security organs, any West Bank resident wishing to visit Egypt should:

—hold a valid Jordanian passport;

—carry an Israeli permit to cross the border;

—if the traveler is less than 35 years old, he must obtain permission from the Israeli authorities allowing him to return 1 month after the date of departure.

It is worth noting that Gaza residents are allowed to visit Egypt because the Strip was under Egyptian rule from 1948 to 1967.

Envoy to UK Meets UK Minister Waldegrave
TA1901191289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom Yo'av Biran today met with British Minister of State William Waldegrave. This was the first meeting of an Israeli official with Waldegrave since the latter's talk with 'Arafat in Tunis.

Although the meeting had been scheduled before the Tunis talk, it was overshadowed by a certain tension between Britain and Israel. Our correspondent Avraham Barzilay reports from London:

Having reiterated Britain's policy toward the PLO, British Minister Waldegrave asked Ambassador Yo'av Biran: Do you wish to hear details of my conversation with 'Arafat? No, thank you, replied Ambassador Biran, I do not wish to hear about that meeting.

Israeli sources in London explained that the refusal is Israel's way to reiterate to the Thatcher government: We are not interested in your mediation between us and the PLO. Israel has repeatedly contended that the Foreign Office stands regarding the PLO are one-sided, and this is why Britain is no longer able to assist in promoting the peace process in the Middle East.

The Waldegrave-Biran meeting lasted 40 minutes. According to the Foreign Office statement, it was conducted in a pleasant atmosphere. Israeli sources described the atmosphere as conciliatory. In fact, the British Foreign Office statements and the local media reports have, in recent days, voiced a certain repentance of Waldegrave's overanxious wooing of the PLO and 'Arafat. The comparison drawn by Waldegrave between PLO terrorism and the prime minister's activity in LEHI [pre-state underground organization] under the British mandate annoyed many people here, including some who are not known for their sympathy for Israel.

It seems that the British are making an effort to somewhat mend the rift between London and Jerusalem, partly because Waldegrave is due to arrive in Israel in March.

Plastic Bullets To Be Fired at Roadblock Builders
TA2001054289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] IDF soldiers will henceforth be permitted to fire plastic bullets at Arabs who are seen erecting stone barriers or burning tires on the roads. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the new regulations have already been issued to the troops. The new rubber bullets can be used by all the soldiers. According to the new regulations, however, only officers and specially chosen NCO's who have undergone special training can use the plastic bullets.

The attorney general has said that in the past, his office has examined and will continue to examine the legality of steps implemented by the IDF in the territories.

Shomron Explains Rules
TA2301055789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, says that no new instructions have been issued concerning the use of plastic bullets. Speaking to our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, the chief of staff said that according to standing instructions, live ammunition can be fired only in a life-threatening situation. Tear gas grenades and plastic and rubber bullets can be fired not only when there is a threat to human life, but also to enforce law and order.

According to him,the authorization to shoot at those who erect roadblocks and burn tires is not new, because roadblocks, too, constitute a threat. As for shooting at those who flee, the chief of staff said that what is being employed are routine procedures for halting suspects.

The chief of staff noted that a decline in the number of fatalities began the moment plastic bullets were introduced. The authorization given NCO's to use plastic bullets will bring about a further drop in activity against the IDF, says the chief of staff.

Elaboration on Rules
TA2001204789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] A total of 50 soldiers have been brought to trial since the beginning of the uprising in the territories for deviating from standard orders on how to deal with demonstrators. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami says that another 500 have faced military discipline for violating standing orders during this period.

A senior military source told our reporter that while new rubber bullets are being introduced into Army use against demonstrators, it is not true that soldiers in general are to be allowed to use plastic or rubber bullets against anyone burning tires or erecting roadblocks. According to the source, however, officers and NCO's who received special training have been allowed to fire at inciters, principal demonstrators, and anyone burning tires or erecting roadblocks for some time now.

Shomron: No Casualty Rise From Plastic Bullets
TA2201175689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron says that the introduction of plastic bullets in operational activity in the territories has not resulted in an increase in the number of fatalities. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that defense establishments members today told the Cabinet that the instructions on opening fire have not been expanded. What has changed is that the license to use them has been extended to include additional personnel. Thus, NCO's may also use these bullets following special training.

Cabinet Discusses Use of Plastic Bullets

TA2201103889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] The use of plastic bullets in the territories was discussed in the Cabinet meeting this morning. Minister Moshe Shahal said that the instructions on using such bullets may be tantamount to an illegal order. Defense Minister Rabin and Ministers Levi, Qatzav, and Milo expressed indignation at Minister Shahal's remarks. Minister Roni Milo said that these remarks are dangerous because IDF officers may conclude that the order on the use of plastic bullets is illegal and should therefore be disobeyed.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the attorney general made it clear during the meeting that all orders regarding the use of plastic bullets were examined before being issued and are absolutely legal. The chief of staff thanked the ministers for defending the IDF soldiers.

Numbers of Arab, Jewish Casualties Reported

TA2201125389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jan 89 pp 1,6

[Report by Dan Sagir, Ori Nir, and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to official Army sources, since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising] on 9 December 1987 and up to last Friday [20 January], 275 Arabs have been killed by the IDF. This number includes 190 fatalities in Judaea and Samaria and 95 in the Gaza Strip [figures as published]. About 50 more Arabs have been killed by Jewish and Arab civilians in the territories. According to Arab sources, the number of fatalities in the territories is close to 400.

About 10 Jews—both soldiers and civilians—have been killed in the territories since the beginning of the uprising. According to Arab sources, the number of injured among the Arab population of the territories since the beginning of the uprising up to today stands at 4,325 (3,010 in Judaea and Samaria and 1,315 in the Gaza Strip.)

The number of injuries (mostly slight) among IDF soldiers in the surveyed period reached 815; the number of wounded Jewish civilians (most of whom are from Judaea and Samaria) stands at 450. [passage omitted]

Stonethrowing Continues Despite Heavy Sentences

TA2201162889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jan 89 p 4

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Over the weekend, the military court in the Gaza Strip imposed heavy sentences on defendants convicted of throwing stones at IDF troops. This was in accordance with the new punishment policy being implemented by the courts in the territories.

Sixteen indictments were submitted to the military court by Lieutenant 'Ofer Ben-Hayim, the military prosecutor. Twelve of the defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges while four confessed. The court sentenced the four to prison terms ranging from 4 ½ to 6 months.

Military sources report that despite the severe punishments being dealt out by military courts in the territories to stonethrowers, there has been no decline in the number of these incidents.

Probe Shows IDF Caused All 'Arrabah Injuries

TA1901205489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] In today's incident in the village of 'Arrabah, none of the residents were injured by shots fired by the resident being attacked on suspicion of collaborating with the authorities. An investigation conducted by the Civil Administration and the police reveals that all the injuries were the result of shots fired by soldiers who arrived to rescue the assaulted man.

Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that 'Arrabah residents had said that shots fired by the assaulted man, Hasan Lahluh, injured four people.

At least 15 residents of the territories were injured today in violent clashes with troops. The IDF clamped a curfew on the Al-Shati' and Jabalyah refugee camps following this morning's stone-throwing incident in which a 17-year-old youth was killed by a rubber bullet.

The curfews in Tulkarm and Qalqilyah have been lifted.

Police Learn of West Bank 'Terror Squad'

TA2001073089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The police have released two youths who were detained early this week on suspicion of having thrown a Molotov cocktail at an Egged bus in Al-Shaykh Jarrah in East Jerusalem. The two were not involved in that incident, but following their interrogation the police learned of an organized terror squad believed to have carried out various attacks and firebombings even before the start of the uprising in the territories. Our police affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that the members of the squad are inhabitants of the territories and that none of them have been detained so far.

Further on Violence, Casualties in Territories

34 Injured 19 Jan

TA2001083189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jan 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by Mikhal Sela' and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] One Palestinian was killed and 20 were wounded yesterday in wide-spread demonstrations in the Gaza Strip in protest against the new Defence Ministry punishment policy.

At the same time, 14 persons were wounded in West Bank violence, nine of them in an incident involving villagers who were shot while attacking an Arab for "collaborating with the authorities." [passage omitted]

Stone-throwing had spread throughout the Gaza Strip in response to a call on Radio Monte Carlo by the PLO to strike and demonstrate against the new punishment policy.

Two people were later shot and wounded in Al-Shaykh Radwan during a symbolic funeral procession held as soon as demonstraters learned of the latest fatality. Three were wounded in Jabalyah, according to the IDF. Palestinians, however, put the number at 13, including six-year-old Muhammad Humayda, who was shot in the knee. According to Palestinians who visited local hospitals, two others were wounded in Khan Yunus, two in Dayr al-Balah and one in Gaza. Several were also reportedly injured by tear-gas and beatings.

The [general] strike was in effect in the towns, but not in the villages. Curfews were imposed on the Al-Shati' refugee camp, in Al-Shaykh Radwan, and in Rafah. [passage omitted]

In other West Bank incidents, two people were wounded in the legs at the Balatah refugee camp in Nabulus, two were wounded at Dura, near Hebron, and a pupil was wounded in Hebron during a clash near a school.

[In a report on page three by Ayelet Mazor, Uri'el Ben-'Ami, and ITIM, Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 20 January adds that "The security forces demolished two houses in Kafr Malik in the Ramallah District yesterday." In a report on page seven by Oren Kohen, Shim'on Elqabetz, and Menahem Horowitz, Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 20 January adds that "The IDF yesterday sealed off two entrances to the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus, leaving just one entrance open."]

Four petrol-bombs were thrown last night at a settler's car near Efrat, south of Bethlehem, but there were no casualties. The attack occurred on the Efrat-Tekoah road at the site of several previous petrol-bomb attacks, including an incident in which a settler opened fire and wounded two soldiers he mistook for his assailants. [passage omitted]

Suspected Collaborator Murdered

TA2001082189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Ahmad Jaradat was murdered by gunshots last night in the village of 'Attil, in the Tulkarm area. Our correspondent Arye Gus was told by local residents that he was an owner of an office for services [not further specified] in Tulkarm. Jaradat, who was born in the village of Silat al-Harithiyah, moved to 'Attil 2 years ago. The local residents suspected him of being an Israeli collaborator. IDF forces clamped a curfew on the village. Security forces started an investigation into the murder.

All West Bank Schools Closed

TA2001112689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria has closed down all schools in the area because of the disturbances. Our correspondent Arye Gus was told that over the past few weeks there has been an increase in the number of students who have participated in violent confrontations with IDF soldiers, mostly by stoning vehicles. For this reason, there has also been an increase in the number of students wounded. Closing the schools is meant to prevent violent confrontations, thereby lowering the number of casualties.

Our correspondent notes that over the past few weeks the Civil Administration people have conducted many talks with leaders of the Arab community, parents and students alike, warning them that a continuation of the violence will lead to the closure of the education system. The schools have been closed down until an appropriate atmosphere for study is created.

Balatah Man Killed

TA2001173489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] A 23-year old Balatah refugee camp resident who was shot by unidentified persons in the center of Nabulus has died in a Ramallah hospital today. He was the son of a Balatah resident who was suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that there were a number of attempts to attack suspected collaborators over the past few weeks and that a resident of 'Attil was murdered last night against the same background.

There were at least 10 injuries in the territories today. Military sources have reported that six people were injured in Gaza. According to Arab sources, that figure stands at 11, and they report another 4 wounded in Judaea and Samaria.

IDF Kills Armed Assailant

TA2101102989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Several shots were fired at an IDF unit patrolling the township of Yattah in the Hebron Hills last night. Soldiers of the unit returned fire and killed an Arab resident. Official Army sources told our correspondent in the territories Arye Gus that the dead man was found in possession of an Uzi submachinegun. The circumstances of the event and the shooting are being investigated.

Our correspondent adds that IDF soldiers have been shot at several times over the past few weeks in the Hebron area. In one such incident, an IDF soldier on a transport bus was slightly wounded.

The township of Yattah was declared a closed military zone.

2 Killed; 'Many' Detained

TA2101172689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Two people were killed, several injured, and many were detained over the weekend in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that 'Ali Ibrahim Abu Sharifa, aged 14, from the Tulkarm refugee camp, was killed by IDF gunfire during the dispersal of a demonstration.

A 14-year-old girl with a bullet wound in her back was rushed to Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus.

A resident from Yattah in the Hebron Hills was killed. The locals said that many villagers began throwing rocks at the home of a fellow villager suspected of collaborating with the authorities. The man summoned the Army and the mayor's bodyguards for help. Because of a misunderstanding, the soldiers and the bodyguards started shooting at each other. One bodyguard was killed in the exchange of fire and, according to local residents, two more were injured. Official military sources have reported that the dead man, who had a licensed personal weapon, failed to identify the soldiers and opened fire at them as the Army was conducting operations in the village.

Our correspondent adds that last night the security forces carried out wide-scale detentions throughout Judaea and Samaria. According to foreign news agencies, the number of detainees has reached at least 100.

Curfew Imposed on Tulkarm

TA2201055389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The Army has imposed a curfew on Tulkarm after a series of incidents in the territories, in which 2 people were killed and some 100 arrested. The town of Yattah remains a closed military area, after the head of the town council was killed by soldiers as a result of a misunderstanding. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 22 January in a page 1 report by Mikhal Sela' adds: "A petrol bomb was hurled at an army patrol in Ramallah where hundreds of youths demonstrated. The IDF arrested at least 100 Palestinians and clamped a curfew on the town centre, security sources said." The date of the Ramallah incident was not given. The IDF declared Bi'r Zayt a closed military zone and off limits to journalists, while "A curfew remained in force yesterday in two Rafah neighbourhoods, in Shaykh al-Radwan in Gaza, and in the Al-Shati' refugee camp."]

Curfews Set on Gaza Camps

TA2201092189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] In a bid to prevent rioting, the Gaza Strip Civil Administration this morning imposed curfews on several refugee camps. The curfew imposed yesterday on the Tulkarm refugee camp remains in effect. It was imposed in the wake of a riot in which a 14-year-old youth was shot and killed.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a general strike is under way in the territories today, according to a call issued by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement. The purpose of the strike is to express solidarity with deported residents of the territories.

In Tulkarm, the Unified National Command of the Uprising has urged residents to stage a strike in protest over the death of a youth yesterday.

Ex-Mayor Under House Arrest

TA2201112489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] The Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration has issued a house arrest order against former 'Anabta Mayor Wahid Hamdallah. This is the 13th such order against Hamdallah since 1980. Hamdallah has told our correspondent Arye Gus that he has no idea why he is continually confined to 'Anabta.

His attorney Felicia Langer said that the measure is disgraceful. On the reason for the house arrest, the order against Hamdallah states that he is a senior nationalistic activist dealing in subversive hostile activities that he initiates, encourages, and coordinates in the entire area.

Firebombs Destroy Gaza Bus

TA2201134989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] An Israeli bus was totally burned at 0430 this morning when two firebombs hit it on Al-Nasir Street in Gaza. The bus was transporting laborers to work in Israel. The driver and the few laborers on the bus managed to escape unscathed. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that a general strike in solidarity with the deportees was declared today in the Gaza Strip in accordance with a manifesto issued by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement.

Stiff Sentences Given 3 Men

TA2201171089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] The military court in Lod has meted out stiff prison sentences to three terrorists who operated against Israel in the north of the country.

Musa 'Abd al-Rahman from the Sudan, who carried out a mission on behalf of the PFLP, was sentenced to life for his attempt to carry out a suicide attack in Israel. He was captured about 18 months ago near the security fence on the Lebanese border.

In another trial, Bassam Ahmad Hifawi of Fatah was sentenced to 26 years in prison. All his attempts to carry out attacks in Israel were thwarted.

Mustafa Karim Hamud from Lebanon, who served as a guide for the driver of the booby-trapped car that exploded near the Good Fence's Fatma Gate last year, was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Hamud confessed to having acted as an intelligence man for Hizballah.

5 Wounded; Curfews Imposed

TA2201174689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Four Gaza Strip residents were injured by IDF shots today, [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 22 January adds that they were wounded by plastic bullets and "were identified as stone throwers or as instigators who urged groups of stone throwers."] and one Arab resident of Tammun in Samaria was wounded during riots.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the IDF imposed curfews on several Gaza Strip refugee camps [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 22 January adds that a curfew was also imposed on the Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, the site of the petrol bomb attack earlier this morning] and on the village of Dhannabah in the Tulkarm region. Dhannabah youths rioted after holding a symbolic funeral ceremony for the 14-year-old youth who died yesterday.

Nabulus Bank Firebombed

TA2301113289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] In Nabulus several firebombs were thrown this morning at a local Bank Leumi branch. A fire broke out, and a number of Arab employees at the bank were lightly injured. Security forces are investigating.

Preacher Under House Arrest

TA2301121189 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Jan 89 p 1

[Excerpts] Nabulus—Last Wednesday the Israeli authorities placed Shaykh Hamid al-Baytawi, preacher of the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and Tulkarm's religious judge, under house arrest. The house arrest order is effective from the date of notification. [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that this is the fifth time that the Israeli authorities have placed Shaykh al-Baytawi under house arrest for different periods.

UN Envoys Convey Message to King Husayn

JN1901181189 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] His Majesty the king received at the Royal Court today United Nations envoys Jean-Claude Aime and (John Dominico) who conveyed to his majesty a message from the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

His majesty briefed the two officials on peace efforts to settle the Middle East conflict, saying the United Nations and Mr Perez de Cuellar spared no efforts in contributing towards achieving peace in the region. Both Mr Aime and Mr Dominico paid tribute to his majesty's persistent efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East.

The meeting was attended by Jordan's United Nations permanent representative.

[illegible] Meet With Al-Rifa'i

JN1901195389 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received Jean-Claude Aime and (John Dominico) at his office this morning. 'Abdallah Salah, Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations, attended.

A review was made of developments in the Middle East, particularly the Iraq-Iran war, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the role of the United Nations and its secretary general in settling regional conflicts.

Prime Minister al-Rifa'i Orders Spending Cuts

JN2301073189 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i Sunday issued a circular to all government departments and ministries directing them on means of implementing provisions contained in the 1989 budget statement which calls for cutting down on public expenditure.

The circular called on all departments to pursue efforts to collect revenues due to the treasury and to refrain from any plans to spend sums in excess of allocations assigned for them in the budget statement.

The prime minister's circular made it clear that all departments should cut by half transport allowances for all employees, reduce by 12 per cent allocations for fuel, water, electricity and other purchases and to rationalise spending on these commodities. The circular also noted that the government departments have to abide by provisions as stated in the budget which called for reducing their respective shares and contributions to regional and international organisations.

The circular said all departments should adhere to the allocations made for capital projects and should not introduce amendments or changes in these projects that would incur extra cost, except with prior approval from the council of ministers.

Government subsidies and contributions to various organisations as included in the 1989 budget can only be given in light of the actual needs of these organisations and in light of the requirements of their individual projects, according to the circular.

The circular urged all departments to implement schemes for which tenders had been awarded in accordance with a fixed timetable and to ensure that no delays take place. It also cautioned departments not to appropriate any new pieces of land for which no allocations had been made in the 1989 budget.

As to projects that are being implemented with foreign loans and other assistance programmes, the circular said the treasury will not pay sums in excess to those allocated for Jordan's share in these projects, and that government agencies which depend on the treasury for financing their projects should shoulder extra cost that could ensue from changes in their plans.

The circular made it clear that government departments can not seek loans for infrastructure or services projects, but loans can be obtained to finance production schemes.

In another circular, the prime minister said that a number of government-owned vehicles which carry "white" number plates such as those owned by private citizens have been found to be used for personal rather than official business.

The circular said that all these vehicles should have their plates changed to "red" like all other government-owned cars, and should not be used except for official business.

The circular said that the Traffic Department, the Audit Bureau and other concerned departments have been entrusted to keep control on the situation, and warned that violators of the regulations will be prosecuted.

450 Kg of Hashish, Smugglers Apprehended

JN2301101689 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0932 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Amman, 23 Jan (PETRA)—The department for combating drugs and forgery at the Public Security Directorate last week managed to quash a smuggling operation of a large quantity of drugs consisting of 450 kg of hashish.

The drugs were seized inside Jordanian territory. They would have been worth 450,000 Jordanian dinars in their intended place of use, as their destination was a neighboring Arab country. A number of smugglers with Jordanian and various Arab nationalities were apprehended.

Walid Junblatt Receives Hizballah Delegation

NC1501185189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 15 Jan 89

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt has received a Hizballah delegation in Al-Mukhtarah. He stressed that a constructive dialogue free from frenzy can solve the differences responsible for the fighting. He emphasized that the Israeli-East Beirut alliance is the only party to benefit from this fighting. He stated that what is going on within the nationalist and Islamic ranks has pushed the confrontation [with Israel] into the background. He emphasized the need to end the fighting in order to unify these ranks.

Junblatt said that the current crisis is only one link in the chain of the crisis. We will deal with the new situation arising from the Arab foreign ministers meeting, he said. We will submit our views to the Arab foreign ministers, he stated, adding: I believe we are still at the beginning of the road. He maintained that the six-member [as heard] committee formed at the Arab foreign ministers meeting is the same as the follow-up committee established in 1976, and declared: We have thus returned to the situation of 1976.

Urges Return of Evacuees

NC1601182089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Text] PSP leader Junblatt has reasserted that there are no conditions for the return of Christian evacuees to the mountain area. In a press statement, he said that the road is open to all evacuees who want to return home, without preconditions. The invitation is open to everyone, and all are asked to respond to this gesture. He called on the Phalangist Party to send a representative to participate in the work of the committee on the return of evacuees.

Junblatt said that certain mountain areas are ready for the normal return of evacuees, but it is difficult to ensure their return to some areas and to villages where clashes took place. The parties in East Beirut must not use this step to carry out blackmail. Nor must they obstruct its implementation for well-known purposes, he said.

Junblatt stated that he does not object to the army under Major General Sami al-Khatib assuming security in Iqlim al-Tuffah, the mountain area, or any other part of Lebanon, in order to unify the nationalist areas. However, volunteers must be able to join, he said, because the army is aging and needs new blood and resources to perform its tasks.

Alluding to the atmosphere of international detente, Junblatt said: We must prepare ourselves for detente and the possibilities for a solution. The resolution of the issue of evacuees as a whole is contingent upon a solution of the Lebanese crisis. The return of the evacuees to the mountain area is a settlement of the situation there and an example of coexistence. This is currently taking place without a political dialogue with the other party, he concluded.

Junblatt on Relations With Syria, Hostages

NC1901210289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt has called on the leaders in the eastern areas to cooperate in drawing up a Lebanese solution and in establishing unique and clear relations with Syria. He said that an opportunity for such a development is now available and called on these leaders not to miss it. He added that Lebanon cannot exist in a state of partition.

Junblatt expressed hope that stability and security will be restored in Lebanon. He said he is not seeking authority, stressing that his personal ambitions are limited. The PSP leader also expressed hope that authority will be restored to a national army that will protect the homeland and to which the militia groups will hand over their weapons.

Regarding his relations with Damascus, Junblatt described these as strategic ones. He said that Syria constitutes the Arab depth for Lebanon, is a factor of stability for Lebanon, and is the organ through which Lebanon breaths. He wished that a day will come when Lebanon will unite with Syria because fateful decisions cannot be made without that country.

Regarding his attacks on religious leaders, Walid Junblatt denied attacking religious symbols, such as the patriarch and the mufti. He said: I want the mufti to be the mufti of all Muslims from 'Akkar to the South. I did not attack the person of the patriarch. However, it is much more than a list of candidates that is being prepared or given. Regarding the detention of the hostages, particularly Terry Waite, Junblatt said: We must ride out this whirpool. Hizballah must end this issue. I do not believe that Terry Waite is a dangerous spy.

Appeals for Waite's Release

NC2001100989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0830 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Interview with PSP leader Walid Junblatt by unidentified announcer from Lebanese television Channel 7 on 19 Jan—recorded, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Interviewer] One last question before the commercial—what is the latest news about your friend Terry Waite? Where is he?

[Junblatt] I think he is still being held. I hope that the brothers in Hizballah will, for their own reputation and ours and regardless of the reasons—for sometimes one can understand the reasons for abduction, although sometimes abduction is unjustified—get us off the hook.

The Lebanese have a reputation and so do the Shi'ites, to be more specific. We do not wish to differentitate between Shi'ites and Druze when it comes to matters of reputation.

I do not see Terry Waite as being this big-time spy. I do not believe that. In my opinion, we put this issue behind us, as we did with worse factional strife between the Druze and the Shi'ites, thanks to the cooperation of Nabih Birri. [passage omitted]

UK Envoy Says Waite, Other Hostages Alive

LD2001113589 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1106 GMT 20 Jan 89

[By Grania Langdon-Down, PRESS ASSOCIATION]

[Excerpt] Church envoy Terry Waite and the two other British hostages in Lebanon are alive; but probably being held in "deplorable conditions", the British Ambassador in Beirut Mr Allan Ramsay said today.

Mr Ramsay makes regular forays from the heavily-guarded British Embassy in Christian East Beirut into the mainly Muslim Western Sector of the city seeking information about the missing men.

On today's second anniversary of Mr Waite's abduction in Beirut, he told the PRESS ASSOCIATION: "There is nothing to suggest that they are not alive. We have had indications which confirm that, though nothing very recent. I remain hopeful that they will be released."

The archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, was leading church services today marking the anniversary of Mr Waite's disappearence.

Mr Ramsay said the lack of information about the men, with no claims of responsibility and no demands, made the search very frustrating. "The hostages are never very far from our minds".

It was made worse by fears that the hostages could be being held in "deplorable conditions, deprived of freedom and most human contact". But information on the men was so sparse and often contradictory it was only speculation, he said.

"It is very frustrating and I think one is groping in the dark a lot of the time. No doubt it will sound platitudinous but it will have been worth it if we can get their release."

Mr Ramsay said he had appealed on Lebanese television for the release of Mr Waite, journalist John McCarthy and lecturer Brian Keenan and for the freeing of the hundreds of Lebanese also being held captive.

"The message I wanted to get across was that nothing is to be gained by continuing to detain hostages a moment longer and, from that, it should be clear the British Government is not going to make a deal." [passage omitted]

Sadiq al-Musawi Cited on 'Awn Government

NC2101214789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Sadiq al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic movement in Lebanon, has said: We do not doubt that the government of General Michel 'Awn is the legitimate government, because former President Amin al-Jumayyil issued a decree appointing it. We believe that the government of Salim al-Huss has no constitutional legitimacy and that the reasons that government offers for its existence are unconstitutional.

In an interview with the magazine AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, Al-Musawi said: President al-Jumayyil's appointment of Michel 'Awn was a great service to our cause. Al-Jumayyil refuted the claim that, according to a certain charter, the offices of the president, the prime minister, and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies should go to the Maronites, the Sunnites, and the Shi'ites, respectively.

Lahd Returns to Marj 'Uyun From Haifa Hospital

NC2201154089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Our correspondent in the south reported a short while ago that at 1430 today an Israeli helicopter carrying south Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander Major General Antoine Lahd and his wife landed at the crossing gate on the Lebanese-Israeli border. Maj Gen Lahd was welcomed by a company of SLA soldiers and popular delegations which came from various southern areas. His motorcade proceeded from there until Marj 'Uyun amid strict security measures and mass public receptions by the people of the border strip villages. [passage omitted]

A rally was held at the junction of the road leading to Maj Gen Lahd's house, and he spoke at the rally, thanking the people for their kindness and the sacrifices and efforts they made to come to welcome him today. He thanked the Israeli authorities and the medical team at Rambam Hospital who took care of him and saved him from his ordeal.

Maj Gen Lahd stated that there will be a military court to try Suha Bisharah, who tried to assassinate him. If she is sentenced to death, let it be, he said, and if she is found innocent, let it also be.

Senior DFLP Official Said Released by Syria

NC2101185689 Paris AFP in English 1846 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Damascus, Jan 21 (AFP)—Two senior Palestinian officials were released in the Syrian capital on Saturday after having been held in prison for several months, Palestinian sources here and in Beirut said.

'Isam 'Abd al-Latif of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Salah Salah of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine were both arrested without explanation, in February 1987 and March 1988 respectively.

'Abd al-Latif is a member of the Palestine National Council, or parliament-in-exile, as well of his party's Political Bureau.

Mr Salah heads his group's Lebanon branch and has chaired the National Action Committee representing all Palestinian groups in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Urges End to 'Media War,' Fighting

NC2001151289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has called for an end to the media war and the hostilities between Amal and Hizballah and for both sides to meet and conduct a dialogue during which each party will submit its conditions for a reconciliation. Fadlallah disclosed that the Syrian and Iranian foreign ministers will meet within the next 2 days. He said that a four-party committee will be established after this meeting and comprise Syria, Iran, Amal, and Hizballah.

Birri Announces New Initiative on Dispute

NC2001180489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri announced a new initiative today in a bid to stop the bloodshed between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. He declared the movement's commitment to halting the fighting on the basis of the initiative undertaken by Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan and the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council. Minister Birri also expressed readiness to allow the passage of food and weapons to Jabal Safi for the sake of the fight against Israel. He went on to reiterate his willingness to achieve reconciliation with devout forces in Hizballah without any preconditions, except for the handing over of the killers of Amal officials Dawud Dawud, Mahmud Faqih, and Hasan Sbayti.

At a news conference held today, Birri was asked what his stand would be if a quadripartite meeting were held on finding a solution. Minister Birri replied: Naturally we have no reservations on the role being played by the Syrian brothers and the Iranian Foreign Ministry in resolving the dispute. Likewise, we would not have any reservations over metings between the two noble sides. We are quite prepared to attend a quadripartite meeting after ensuring that the precondition for it has been met; namely, the handing over of the killers. Therefore, we have presented this initiative as a security accord if the other side fails to come up with the key to reconciliation.

In response to another question, Minister Birri said that the Arab League committee has brought the issue of Lebanon back into the political arena. As is known, this issue was in darkness but it is moving into the limelight. Arab concern reflects international concern over the issue. There is a French move, a U.S. move, and a Soviet move.

Minister Birri continued: If we compare these moves with the accords that are being reached throughout the world and with regard to the Middle East issue, we are inclined to be optimistic. However, we still have strong reservations over Israel's designs to enter the scene as a factor and the intransigence of the maronite political establishment regarding a change of system in Lebanon. Consequently, I am not optimistic. In other words, regional and international moves give rise to optimism, but Israeli and domestic moves give rise to pessimism. The solution must come from Lebanon and not from abroad.

Minister Nabih Birri said: We adhere to the Syrian security plan in Beirut and the southern suburb and we ask the Syrian forces to apply their measures to everyone and to expose every violator. We also announce the movement's readiness to exchange prisoners and abide by the plan drawn up to stop media campaigns.

Resistance 'Source' on Initiative

NC2301074589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpts] A responsible source in the Islamic resistance has announced that the shelling by Birri's groups of Jba', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Al-Luwayzah and Jabal Safi has continued for 3 consecutive days. The groups have been using various large-caliber weapons, rocket launchers, tanks, and field artillery. [passage omitted]

Instead of launching attacks, which were repeatedly foiled, Birri's groups have opted for the method of destructive bombardment. Birri's groups also have decided to quiet down their media campaigns in order to appear as a peaceful lamb who rejects fighting.

The source added: One of our men was killed and two others were wounded, one seriously, in the frenzied shelling the day before yesterday. A blockade is still being imposed on resistance positions, where supplies are short, the source added. No injured person has been evacuated at this time because Birri and his groups continue to reject humanitarian initiatives.

The source said: How can we trust the guarantees Birri is talking about when these are the same ones that had been given when the South was surrounded and men of the resistance were arrested. How can we trust these guarantees, which had motivated Birri to uproot the resistance from Iqlim al-Tuffah? How can we believe someone who declares a cease-fire while his artillery fire simultaneously has no mercy on the people and the land? The aim of this announcement is merely to gain time and mislead public opinion. [passage omitted]

Shams al-Din Warns of More Security 'Explosions'

NC2001201789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has maintained that fighting in the southern suburb and Iqlim al-Tuffah might extend to other areas if a solution is not immediately worked out.

At a news conference today, Shaykh Shams al-Din said that the Amal Movement and Hizballah must agree on a proposal which provides for the withdrawal of Hizballah fighters from Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He added that fighting will continue in the absence of this security solution and security explosions will take place in other areas.

Hizballah Says Amal Assassination Groups Formed

NC2101173089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] A Hizballah official today accused the Amal Movement of planning to physically liquidate Hizballah officials in Beirut's southern suburb and in Al-Biqa'. The same official said the movement had formed secret groups for this purpose, adding that one such group has begun its activity in the suburb under security cover in order to carry out Amal's instructions. The group is led by Jihad al-Husayni, Amal's military official in Al-Shiyah.

The Hizballah official said another group is being led by Ahmad al-Ba'labakki, member of the Security Committee, who has been instructed by the Amal leader to form these security groups for political purposes.

Amal-Hizballah Clashes Reported in W. Beirut

NC1901203289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Clashes involving machineguns and rockets raged between the Amal movement and Hizballah between 1930 and 2130 tonight in the vicinity of Al-'Uwayni Palace [West Beirut], causing the closure of the Airport Road. The battles then spread to the outskirts of Al-Ghubayrah and Harat Hurayk, before abating after 2130.

Intermittent clashes are continuing and extreme tension prevails in the area.

Syria Intervenes in Fighting

NC1901153089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Fighting between Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters broke out in Al-Hajjaj Street in Beirut's southern suburb this afternoon. Syrian occupation troops intervened in the fighting, which soon developed into clashes between the Syrians and Hizballah fighters.

In the meantime, tension was high between Amal and Hizballah members along the Al-Shiyah combat lines. Several rockets are reported to have fallen in the Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah neighborhoods. Several Hizballah gunmen were also sighted in Harat Hurayk. The Syrians have warned the Hizballah gunmen to withdraw immediately.

Amal Movement sources have accused Hizballah fighters of attacking and burning the house of an Amal member. This incident led to a clash between the movement and Hizballah fighters. A Hizballah security source has stated that Al-Hajjaj Street in the southern suburb came under rocket and machinegun fire from Amal positions. The source added that several gunmen had been seen in the Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah areas, particularly near the 'Ammar stables. [passage omitted]

Amal Arrests Hizballah Members

NC2001132189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Tension prevails in the areas of Al-Shiyah, Al-Ghubayrah, and the airport road in Beirut's western suburb, following last night's clashes between Amal and Hizballah. Gunmen from both sides are said to remain mobilized in these areas. Machineguns and rockets are being used in skirmishes between the two sides in Iqlim al-Tuffah areas in the South, particularly on the Jba'-Al-Luwazah battle line.

A security source from Hizballah says that the Amal Movement today continued to carry out sweeps against Hizballah members. The movement built a new detention center in Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr where interrogation is being conducted by a man called Khaldun Haydar. Haydar's brother, known as Abu Bilal, has been in charge of the sweeps in which Amal arrested Hizballah members in Al-Nabatiyah. According to the source, Amal is holding 100 people in Al-Shaqif. Amal members today made arrests in 'Atshit near Al-Nabatiyah.

Explosion Reported at Syrian Arms Depot in Beirut

NC1901151289 (clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] An explosion rocked a Syrian occupation forces' arms depot in West Beirut at approximately 1400 today. Amal Movement personnel raced to the scene to extinguish the fire which broke out in the depot. The causes and results of the explosion have not yet been determined.

Group Claims Attack on Syrians in Tripoli

NC2001194489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] In Tripoli, the 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has claimed responsibility for firing at a permanent checkpoint manned by Syrian special forces at the northern entrance to the harbor, close to the quarantine facility. The checkpoint was directly hit in the attack, which was carried out at 1700 today, and resulted in several casualties among the Syrian forces.

The group vowed to continue its operations until Tripoli is rid of the filth of the Syrian occupation.

More Anti-Syrian Attacks Claimed

NC2201203489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] The Muhammad Hassun group of the Shaykh Subhi al-Salih forces has announced that it carried out a hand grenade attack on a Syrian intelligence position near the British Institute in the Al-Hamra' area of West Beirut at about 2110 tonight.

Meanwhile, the 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli claimed responsibility for shooting at a Syrian occupation forces' roadblock on the Al-Arz road in the Al-Qubbah area of Tripoli shortly after 1800 today. The organization said that three Syrians, a lieutenant and two privates, were wounded.

Army Post in South Destroyed, Casualties Reported

NC2301064389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Gunmen of the extremist Islamic organizations carried out an operation against a Lebanese Army position in Rum at 0400 today. The position acts as a liaison center linking Sidon, Al-Biqa', and the Defense Ministry.

The position was completely destroyed after being hit by five RPG's. Three military men, Bisharah al-Qattar, Antoine al-Khawand, and Sharbil 'Aql, were wounded in the attack.

Immediately after the operation, the South Lebanese Army carried out a large-scale search operation.

4 Red Cross Employees Return To Reopen Offices

NC2201193289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Four employees of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] returned to Beirut today after they left Lebanon last month because of assassination threats.

An official Lebanese source told REUTER that the ICRC team will reopen the ICRC offices in Beirut after they were closed on 20 December because of the assassination threats.

Official on Resumption of Work

NC2301133489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 23 Jan 898

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] began talks with officials today, centering on the possibility of resuming its work in Lebanon. An ICRC delegation visited Prime minister Dr Salim al-Huss; Ambassador Salah Staytiyah, director of the Foreign ministry's Political Department; and General Michel 'Awn.

After meeting with Staytiyah, the delegation head, who is the ICRC official in charge of the Middle East and North Africa, said that the purpose of the meetings with officials and leaders is to explore various views and circumstances in an attempt to establish whether or not the impediments that caused the ICRC to suspend its activities in Lebanon are still present.

He added: We are ready to return as soon as possible. We urge all key figures and parties to ensure that ICRC employees and representatives are not affected by political conflicts. He pointed out that the committee did not halt its aid after it left Lebanon. The committee had sent medicines to Lebanon through the Lebanese Red Cross during the clashes in the southern suburb and the South, he added.

Car Bomb Said Dismantled Near Khaddam's Home

NC2301082789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] According to information available to our security correspondent, a gray Mercedes rigged with 150 kg of explosives was discovered in the vicinity of the residence of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus last week. The device was dismantled a few hours before detonating.

Defense Minister Accuses Israel of Bombing

LD2101115889 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1042 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Jan (KUNA)—Syrian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, in a statement published here today, accused the Israeli intelligence service Mosad of planting the bomb that destroyed the U.S. airliner over Britain last month.

The Kuwait AL-QABUS quoted General Talas as saying that "the one who carried the explosives onto the plane in Frankfurt was a U.S. soldier working at one of the bases in West Germany."

He said that the U.S. soldier unwittingly received from Mosad agents a bag of diamonds to smuggle into the United States in return for $300,000. The Israeli agent provided the U.S. soldier with a telephone number to contact him as soon as he arrived in New York to hand over the bag.

Lt Gen Talas pointed out that U.S. soldiers' bags are packed in a special container at Frankfurt airport and they do not come under normal inspection procedures. Talas explained that this information was available to more than one Western intelligence service, particularly the operation of collective cancellation at the last moment of Jewish rabbis who were scheduled to travel on the plane that was blown up apparently by a bomb that explodes at a specific altitude.

Lt Gen Talas affirmed that according to information that had become available to his country—"the explosion was set to take place over the Atlantic, but for certain reasons and due to the late take-off from Heathrow Airport in London the plane blew up over the village of Lockerbie in Scotland." He said that the explosive material from which the bomb was manufactured is made only in Czechoslovakia and Israel.

Several foreign newspapers pointed an accusing finger at Israel's attempt to spoil the dialogue that began between the United States and the PLO last month.

Opposition to Egypt's Return to Arab League Ends

NC1901180189 Paris AFP in English 1754 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Amman, Jan 19 (AFP)—Syria no longer objects to Egypt's reinstatement in the Arab League, which should be approved at an emergency Arab summit, Arab diplomatic sources said here Thursday.

The change in position, they explained, reflects a desire by Syrian authorities to avoid isolation in the Arab world, where there is now a strong movement toward re-admitting Egypt to the League.

Cairo's membership was suspended in 1979 after it signed a peace treaty with Israel, an accord that also prompted most Arab states to sever diplomatic relations with Egypt.

However, all but three Arab states—Syria, Lebanon and Libya—have now taken advantage of an Arab summit resolution in 1987 authorizing members to resume ties on an individual basis.

Bitterly opposed to Egypt's relations with Israel, Syria until recently has blocked all moves to reinstate Cairo.

But in recent weeks there have been unmistakable indications of a shift in Syrian policy—notably on Wednesday when Damascus voted to restore Egypt's seat in the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, an Arab League specialized agency that concluded a meeting in Damascus.

Syria had earlier abstained when Egypt's membership in two other agencies, the Arab Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Arab Council for Economic Unity, was approved.

Arab diplomatic sources here said neither Syria nor Libya, another traditionally anti-Egyptian hardliner, objects to the convocation of a special Arab summit, where the question of Egypt's return could be examined.

But both states would still oppose re-establishing Arab League headquarters in Cairo, where Israel maintains an embassy, the sources added.

The League was based in the Egyptian capital until 1979.

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

JN2201201789 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foriegn affairs minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus this evening.

He was received upon arrival at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'ullah al-Fattal, directors of the Foreign Ministry's Asia and protocol departments, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

The delegation accompanying the Iranian foreign affairs minister includes Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister for Afro-Arab affairs; Dr Mahdi Zadah, secretary [wakil] of the foreign affairs committee of the Islamic Majlis, the director of the Foreign Ministry Public Relations Department, the chairman of the first department of the Ministry, and the assistant of the third department of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

In a statement, Dr Velayati said he is carrying a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He noted that his visit to Syria is to meet with Syrian officials to exchange views on a number of current issues in the region. He added: The visit is also aimed at meeting with the Lebanese brothers to exert joint efforts to surmount obstacles through joint action between Syria and Iran.

Meets With Nabih Birri

LD2301115289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who is presently visiting Syria, received Nabih Birri, head of the Amal Movement, in Damascus this morning. According to IRNA, the current situation in Lebanon and the moves made by some Arab countries to resolve the crisis in that country, were discussed at this meeting.

The recent Amal-Hizballah clashes and ways to end them were discussed in detail. The head of the Amal declared the stances adopted by his movement in this respect.

Damascus Radio Views Role of Bush Administration

JN2101153989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The new U.S. President, George Bush, has assumed office, beginning his first constitutional term as the 41st president of the United States.

President Bush is not new to high posts in the United States. He has worked as director of the CIA and vice president for President Reagan throughout his presidency. Also, he has not been far from the U.S. policy. There is a unanimous agreement that the new U.S. President has wide experience in, and information about, most of the important international issues.

It may be asking too much to call on the new U.S. Administration to declare its stands on different international and regional issues on its 1st day, or days, in office. As is the tradition with different U.S. administrations, the new administration will start by opening the files and studying them, examining stands, and making contacts. This does not deny the existence of a continuity in administration and institutions, especially since the two presidents—the new and the former—belong to the Republican Party, in addition to their work together over a long period of time.

In spite of this, no one can claim in advance that the new president will be a copy of the former one, and that the new administration's policy will be—in crux and details—the same as the previous administration's policy.

The new U.S. Administration has great capabilities to continue the march of international detente; ward off the ghost of nuclear annihilation from mankind; stop the arms race, which squanders economic energies and peoples' prosperity; and continue to replace the policy of confrontation with one of dialogue and the policy of clashes with one of detente.

The statement by President Bush before he assumed his constitutional duties points out he intends to continue negotiations with the Soviet Union to agree on new steps on the paths of international detente and resolving regional conflicts.

The Middle East, in which we live, is the scene of a long, complicated conflict between the Arabs and Israel. This conflict has been going on for 40 years because the Zionists' invasion of Arab territories and confiscation of the Palestinian people's national rights have not stopped. Moreover, the Israeli rulers' rejection of the principles of the UN Charter and resolution has continued uninterrupted.

Thus this region, which has great strategic importance, has witnessed a series of wars, making it one of the most dangerous zones of tension and threats of war in the world in view of the intersection of many interests here.

Since it is one of the two superpowers and a permanent UN Security Council member and since it has special relations with Israel, the United States has a major, specific responsibility for the situation in this region. In the scope of international detente and resolving regional conflicts, it can, if it wishes, provide a serious and confirmed contribution to the international efforts, which seek to establish a just peace through an international conference, to be called by the United Nations and held under its auspices with the participation of all parties concerned and the UN Security Council's permanent members.

The closer the United States gets to justice in the region, the greater and more influential will its role become in the effort to achieve just and permanent peace. The Arabs have objected to the policies of previous U.S. administrations not because they hated or were hostile to the United States without reason, but because the policy was remote from either justice or balance.

The closer the U.S. Administration approaches justice in the region and the bases of a just peace, according to the UN Charter and resolutions, the closer it will get to the positions of the Arabs in defense of their land, rights, and dignity. It will also open for itself roads to dialogue.

Afghanistan

Rebels Reportedly Capture Konduz Airport
BK2101015889 Hong Kong AFP in English
2036 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 20 (AFP)—Afghan rebels have seized the airport at the northern provincial capital of Konduz after three days of heavy fighting, the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said on Friday [20 January].

It said the capture of the airport could be the prelude to the capture of the city, the sixth largest in Afghanistan.

Rebel forces took Konduz, 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the Soviet border, in August but failed to hold it because Afghan Government troops, backed by Soviet forces, controlled the airport and were able to fly in reinforcements and bomb the city.

The agency said guerrillas with the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction captured the airport on Thursday, destroying two planes and cutting it off from the town's garrison.

Radio Kabul, monitored here Wednesday, said an Afghan Army offensive in Konduz Province last week had left 380 rebels dead. Eight foreign advisors—one American and seven Arabs—were also killed, the official radio said.

Islamabad Reports Capture
BK2101024489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Reports say that Afghan mujahidin, after 3 days of fierce fighting, have captured the Konduz airport. The mujahidin, who were planning to recapture the city of Konduz from the Kabul regime, attacked the airport and cut off the air resupply system and aircraft-landing facilities.

Reports say the mujahidin are moving toward Jalalabad. After hand-to-hand fighting, the mujahidin also captured a government post only 5 km away from the eastern garrison.

Another report says that the mujahidin seized a nearly 30-km area in the (Tulia) region of 'Abdul Kheyl post.

Rebels Kill 'Over 20' USSR-Kabul Soldiers
LD1901141089 Tehran IRNA in English
1028 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Jan. 19, IRNA—Three armoured vehicles belonging to Kabul regime and over 20 joint Afghan-Soviet forces were killed in Herat and Ghowr provinces of Afghanistan during the past two weeks.

Afghan Muslim mujahidin have been continuing their resistance to break the air and land siege of Herat province by joint Afghan-Soviet forces since last Monday.

Mujahidin positions in Kashkak and Nobadam of Anjil [spelling of placename as received] district of Herat have been under heavy aerial and artilery bombardment by joint forces since Monday when the seige started.

There is no report on possible casualties yet.

Thousands Flee Fighting, Bombing Near Jalalabad
BK2001041489 Hong Kong AFP in English
0400 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Near Jalalabad, Jan 20 (AFP)—More than 30,000 Afghans have fled government bombing raids and fierce fighting near the key eastern garrison city of Jalalabad and are trying to reach the Pakistani border in freezing weather.

Their home towns of Khewa, Shaga and Shauki, captured by Afghan rebels and local Salfi tribesmen last weekend, have become ghost towns, the stone and mud houses flattened by some 300 bombs dropped over the past five days by Afghan jets, witnesses say. [passage omitted]

Afghan jets have made up to five high-altitude bombing raids a day on the plains about 10 kilometers (six miles) from Jalalabad, which has been cut off by the rebels from the east and west and is now under pressure from the north.

The guerrillas are only five kilometers (three miles) to the north of the capital of Nangarhar Province after taking the post of Abdul Khel in hand-to-hand fighting Tuesday [17 January], sources in the area said. [passage omitted]

Islamabad Reports Mujahidin Offensives in East
BK2001160589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say, fierce fighting is going on between mujahidin and Kabul administration's forces in various parts of the country.

According to reports, mujahidin have captured two posts in the Bari area. In this operation, mujahidin killed 30 soldiers and captured this area with a large quantity of arms. Mujahidin also killed 10 Kabul soldiers and injured 100 in clashes in Jalalabad and its surrounding areas. They launched attacks on Makhtum and nearby areas in Paktia Province, killing five Kabul soldiers. Mujahidin also made a combined attack on Jallalastan posts in Khowst, capturing 18 Kabul soldiers and seizing two tanks, heavy machine guns, and mortars.

In Qandahar Province, mujahidin attacked Qandahar airport on last Sunday [15 January], damaging a helicopter. On the same day, they also captured Wazay and (Baluchian) posts in Qandahar Province and inflicted heavy casualties to Kabul regime's forces.

225 'Extremists' Killed Near Goshtaw

LD2001181189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] BIA reports from Jalalabad City that the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province dealt crushing blows to extremist groups in the vicinity of Goshtaw District. On the operation, 225 extremists were killed, including 'Arab, (Sarmoalm), Shahpur, and Wahed, ringleader of the Gulbudin, Khales, and Muhammadi extremist groups. Another 30 extremists were badly wounded in the operation. A rocket launcher, 25 rockets, 3 ZK-1's, 2 guns, 2 communication systems, 6 mortars, and ammunition depot, and a large number of light weapons were destroyed.

Kabul Radio Reports Armed Forces' Operations

LD2101191289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] The Presidential Press Office, citing authoritative sources in the Armed Forces, reports to the BIA military section that Armed Forces units and detatchments have inflicted crushing blows on the enemies of peace and tranquility in the areas of Nangarhar, Qandahar, Herat, Paktia, Baghlan, Samangan, Zabul, and the outskirts of Kabul Province, as a result of which the extremists suffered heavy losses. The details of the Armed Forces' operations follow:

Nangarhar: Units and contingents of the Armed Forces based in Nangarhar, which had withdrawn from Kameh and Goshtaw districts for tactical reasons, recently conducted successful combat operation against the extremists. As a result of air and artillery strikes as many as 431 extremists were crushed and 85 injured. As a result of the operation, two extremist depots were destroyed. Three enemy vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed as a result of the Armed Forces operation in the Khivoh district area, and 40 extremists were crushed.

According to another report, in the Kochonay area a number of extremists were killed and a large amount of arms and ammunition were captured as a result of waylaying by the Armed Forces. The report adds that after the operations the enemy failed to recover the bodies of those who were forcibly drawn to subversive activities and send them to their families. This has aroused enormous hatred against the extremists among the families.

According to the latest reports from Nangarhar, the security situation in the province has improved. The Afghan Armed Forces suffered no casualties in the operations.

Qandahar: As many as 58 warmonger elements were killed as a result of Armed Forces strikes at extremist and enemy concentrations and 13 fortified centers, and 5 machine guns and a large amount of arms and ammunition were destroyed. As many as three shells and thousands of rounds of various ammunition were captured.

According to another report, warmonger extremists fired 70 rockets at residential areas of Qandahar province. As a result of this criminal act, one resident was martyred and two were wounded.

Herat: As many as 15 warmonger extremists were captured during the Armed Forces mopping up operation and an amount of arms and ammunition was seized.

Paktia: Warmonger extremists fired 227 heavy weapons shells at residential areas of Khowst major district. As a result, a woman was martyred, a soldier was wounded, and a number of dwellings were destroyed. Armed Forces units inflicted reciprocal blows on the extremist groups' nests, as a result of which five extremists, including two of their ring leaders, were crushed and a number were wounded.

Baghlan: As a result of a mopping operation, three extremists were crushed and a number of them were wounded.

Samangan: As a result of heavy weapons fire on residential areas, a member of the Revolution's Defense Committee was martyred.

Zabul: Heavy clashes took place between the followers of Gulbuddin and Mohammad Nabi in the area around the province. As a result of the clashes, three people were killed and a number of others from both sides were wounded.

Kabul: As many as six extremists, including an Arab advisor, were killed when a reactive rocket exploded in the Qal'eh-ye Morad Beg area. The extremists wanted to use the rocket to disrupt peace and calm in Kabul city.

According to reports from the Kolangar District of Lowgar, Khowz Konar District of Nangarhar, Jabal ol Saraj district of Parvan Province, Qarahbagh district of Ghazni, and Koshk district of Herat, heavy clashes have taken place between hostile extremist opposition groups. As a result of the clashes, 111 people were killed and 57 wounded among the belligerent groups. A number of people associated with the hostilities were taken prisoner.

Kabul Makes 'Strongest Protest' to Pakistan

LD2001195589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The aggression by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan against the Republic of Afghanistan has taken a new turn as a result of blatant violations of the Geneva accords.

The charge d'affaires at the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today at 1700 by the acting director of the First Political Directorate of the Foreign Ministry.

A report by the Afghan civil and military authorities states that, following the events on 20 Jadi 1367 [9 January 1989], two Pakistani military helicopters again entered Afghan territory from the direction of Khowz Konar at 1045 on 28 Jadi, corresponding to 17 January.

These helicopters, which were carrying a number of so-called leaders of Afghan extremist groups and foreign advisers who intended to escalate subversive actions, landed at coordinates 12641800 and 30824800 in the Yasin Baba region of Shiveh District, Nangarhar province. These helicopters were attacked by Afghan military forces who killed everyone on board and destroyed the helicopters.

On the same date, a supply convoy belonging to the extremists was discovered by an Afghan Air Force patrol plane to be unloading weapons and ammunition in the Kohneh Deh region of Shiveh District, Nangarhar Province, coordinates 12641050 and 3828700. The supply convoy was eliminated.

According to another military report, the Pakistani authorities sent 200 soldiers in commando uniforms to Goshtaw District on 22 Jadi 1367, corresponding to 11 January 1989, to assist the armed extremists. The Afghan military forces were informed in time and took the necessary measures.

The Republic of Afghanistan Government lodges its strongest protest to the Pakistani Government over its violations and aggressive acts. It regards these actions as contrary to accepted international norms and good-neighborly relations between two Muslim countries. The Republic of Afghanistan hopes that the Pakistani side will refrain from provocations and propaganda against the Republic of Afghanistan.

Just as the Republic of Afghanistan has been and continues to observe the Geneva accords, so too should Pakistan observe these accords, which are equally binding on it. If it does not observe them, the consequences of such dangerous actions will lie with the responsible Pakistani authorities.

4 Mujahidin Leaders Reject Interim Council

LD2101174289 Tehran IRNA in English
1654 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—Four Afghan mujahidin groups today calling for "unconditional withdrawal" of Soviet forces, reaffirmed their determination to fight till the fall of Kabul's puppet regime and formation of "a powerful Islamic council" in their homeland.

A four-point statement signed by Afghan leaders, Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur, Qazi Muhammad Amin Waqad, Muhammad Karim Khalili and Mowlawi Mu'azzin rejected the 480-man provisional governing council expected to be formed in Pakistan next month by the Peshawar-based seven-party mujahidin alliance led by Sebghatullah Mojadeddi.

The statement also called for a united front on the part of Afghan Mujahidin to put the struggle on the right path in "the present sensitive situation."

Muhammad Khalili the spokesman of the Iran-based 8-group Afghan coalition termed Mojadeddi's announcement of an interim government as "a hasty and incomprehensive initiative".

"One cannot expect all mujahidin to accept the outcome of this gathering since it has been made without coordination with the coalition and other independent Afghan groups" said Khalili on IRIB channel 2 Thursday.

Appearing on the same programme, Nasrullah Mansur who leads the Harakat-e Inqilab-e Eslami (Islamic Movement of Afghanistan) labelled the proposed council as "one-sided."

USSR Thanked for Food Airlift for Kabul

LD2101163789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] The responsible authorities of the Republic have taken effective measures and actions to eliminate the food shortage, in particular the shortage in Kabul of wheat and flour, the transportation of which has been hampered by continuous snowfall and obstacles created by the opposition.

In order to eliminate the difficulties of Kabul citizens, the USSR Government has agreed to assist the Republic of Afghanistan by transporting by air and land basic materials needed by Kabul citizens.

For example, the transportation of food by air with the cooperation of our Soviet friends began yesterday, 20 January; this is in addition to transportation of food via Salang Highway. The transportation continues.

The Afghan Government expresses its sincere gratitude to the Soviet Union for this assistance to Kabul citizens during difficult circumstances.

Najibullah Congratulates Bush on Election

LD2001181989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1600 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The Presidency press office reports that a message of congratulations has been sent from the esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, to Washington addressed to His Excellency George Bush on the official commencement of his duties in the post of President of the United States.

The message expresses the best wishes of the Republic of Afghanistan for the improvement of and expansion of the friendly ties and prospect of cooperation between the two countries. His Excellency George Bush is requested to contribute to the settlement of the Afghan issue through his goodwill efforts at this difficult and sensitive stage in the history of Afghanistan.

Good health and success are wished for His Excellency George Bush.

India

U.S. Envoy on Sale of F-16's to Pakistan

BK2001161189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The new U.S. ambassador to India, Mr John R. Hubbard, has described the reports of sale of more U.S. F-16 aircraft to Pakistan as a newspaper conjecture. At his first press conference in New Delhi, Mr Hubbard said he has absolutely no knowledge of such negotiations between the United States and Pakistan.

Asked whether such a sale would affect the confidence building between India and the United States, he said Washington would not act as a damper in India's efforts to improve its relations with Pakistan and China, especially in the light of Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi's recent visits to these countries.

The envoy said the Bush government stands for better relations with South Asian countries.

Mr Hubbard expressed the confidence that America would continue to be India's major partner in trade, investment and technology transfer.

Mr Hubbard called on the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, this afternoon. The meeting lasted about half an hour. It was described as a courtesy call.

Voting Begins for Assembly Elections in 3 States

BK2101092089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Moderate to heavy polling so far is reported in the assembly elections being held today in Tamil Nadu, Nagaland and Mizoram. Polling has been peaceful so far in Tamil Nadu and Mizoram, while some untoward incidents have been reported from one district in Nagaland. [passage omitted]

Some untoward incidents have been reported from Nagaland where the polling has been heavy. Voting in 13 out 17 polling stations in Tuli constituency of Mokokchung District has been suspended following clashes between rival groups. According to UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] some persons were injured in the clashes. The suspension follows a report from the return officer that the situation was not conducive for holding the polling. The new date for polling in these areas will be decided by this evening.

In the same district, voting at one polling station in village (Santongia) in Arkokong constituency has been discontinued following clashes between rival groups. Polling is continuing in the other areas of the state peacefully. In rural areas, the percentage of voting has been more than 60 and women outnumbered men at a number of polling stations in remote villages.

In Mizoram, polls of about 50 percent of booths were cast by 1300 [0730 GMT] this afternoon. Voting was very heavy in the first 2 hours and it is continuing peacefully. Men and women in their traditional costumes thronged the polling booths.

About 3,000 candidates, mostly independents, are in the fray in Tamil Nadu for 232 seats. Polling has been countermanded in two constituencies.

The Congress-I and the Nagaland People's Council are contesting all the 60 seats in Nagaland.

In Mizoram, the Congress-I is involved in triangular fight for the 40 seats with the Mizo National Front and the People's Conference.

Counting will begin in Tamil Nadu tomorrow and the first results are expected by the evening. In the other two states, counting will begin on Monday.

DMK Leading in Tamil Nadu

BK2201160089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] appears to have taken an early lead in the Tamil Nadu assembly elections and has already won 20 seats out of the 30 results available so far. The party is leading in over 140 constituencies and according to indications so far it has secured an edge over its nearest rival, the Congress-I, which has secured 7 seats.

The wins are on DMK's own account and its allies are yet to get on to the scoreboard. The AIADMK [All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazagham]-Jayalalitha Front, is trailing far behind with only 2 wins. The Janaki faction of AIADMK has nothing to show so far. [passage omitted]

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Asked to Resign

BK2201161589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] The Madhya Pradesh chief minister, Mr Arjun Singh, has been asked to step down by the Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] which met in New Delhi today. The party president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, presided. The decision has been taken in view of the Madhya

Pradesh High Court's judgment in the Churhat Welfare Society lottery case. The Madhya Pradesh Congress-I legislature party will meet in Bhopal tomorrow afternoon to elect a new leader.

Briefing newsmen about the deliberations of the working committee, the party general secretary, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, said the state government is to institute an enquiry into the case as mentioned in the high court judgment. Mr Azad pointed [out] that the CWC meeting was convened this afternoon after the copy of the judgment was studied by the party's legal experts which was made available only today. Mr Azad denied reports in a section of the press that there was a meeting of the CWC on Madhya Pradesh yesterday and no decision was taken. He said no meeting was held yesterday as copy of the judgment was not available.

9 'Terrorists' Killed; 6 Infiltrate Into Delhi

BK2001032689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] In a major offensive against terrorists, security forces in Punjab have killed nine hardcore terrorists in two separate encounters in (Maltua) areas of Amritsar District. According to an official spokesman, eight terrorists were killed near Bari Gadhiali yesterday. The encounter lasted more than 5 hours.

In another encounter, a terrorist, Hazara Singh, was killed outside Bhurekona village. Two security force personnel, including a subinspector, were killed and one injured in the exchange of fire. The terrorist gang was involved in a number of crimes in the area. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered.

Delhi police has released the photographs of six terrorists who reportedly sneaked into the capital. People have been requested to keep a sharp lookout for these wanted men. They have also been advised not to touch any unidentified and unclaimed objects lying at public places, but inform the police.

16 'Terrorists' Arrested, 3 Killed in Punjab

BK2201161989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, security forces have arrested 16 more terrorists. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh three hardcore terrorists were arrested after a brief encounter in Chowk Mehta of Amritsar District. They have been identified as Surendra Singh, Sukhdev Singh, and Hardev Singh. Elsewhere in the state, seven terrorists were arrested from Ajnala and two from Beas and Lapuke areas. Three more terrorists were arrested following an encounter in Gurdaspur and one from Ludhiana District. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered from them.

Terrorists killed three persons including two brothers in Amritsar District.

Iran

IRNA: Bush To Inherit 'Legacy of Failures'

LD2101074789 Tehran IRNA in English 0728 GMT 21 Jan 89

["Bush Faces Reagan's Failures on Foreign Policy"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Jan. 21, IRNA—George Herbert Bush assumed office Friday as the 41st U.S. President to face a legacy of failures from the Reagan administration, among which no more is acute than in foreign policy.

Under the 8 years of Ronald Reagan, the status of the U.S. was of a rapidly declining superpower brought about by economic overstretch, that turned the world's biggest creditor-nation into its biggest debtor.

His claim to make America "stand tall" again in 1980 had a hollow ring and was met with a greater loss of prestige that historians trace back to the take-over of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979 and a foreign policy that looked increasingly ambiguous.

Nowhere greater was this exemplified than in the Middle East, where misjudged adventurism misfired left Reagan with his mass invasion of the tiny Caribbean island of Grenada in 1983 as seemingly his only accomplishment.

Apart from having a huge problem of economic management and a social fabric of disrepair, the London FINANCIAL TIMES Friday saw Bush having to face what it described as failures that were littered from the Middle East to Central America.

The appointment of James Baker as secretary of state among others in the new adminstration was seen in recognition of interdependence and in tune with sentiments that were "unimpressed with cavalier intervention."

The London GUARDIAN similarly read much into Bush's appointments that include Kissinger disciples and indicate a return to old previous establishment, but warned that it should not be forgotton it was such that had taken the U.S. into Vietnam.

Additionally with a concentration of oil influence in his cabinet, it believed that this could mean a gradual tilt towards the Arab world and even the eventual possibility of a Palestinian state.

Tehran Radio Comments

NC2201092289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. Ronald Reagan's presidency finally ended officially after 8 years, and George Bush—his vice president during those years—assumed the administration of the affairs of the United States.

Before these 8 years, during which he was among the major elements making policy in the Reagan administration, Bush held sensitive positions such as member of the House, leader of the Republican Party, head of the CIA, and head of the U.S. representations in China and at the United Nations, thus accumulating noteworthy political experience.

During the manifestation of a new rightist political trend, Americans considered Ronald Reagan the person who revived the pride that had been wounded in the Vietnam defeat, the Watergate scandal, and the impotence of Carter liberalism vis-a-vis the Third World and the Eastern Bloc. In the Reagan administration, George Bush was considered an element regulating Reagan's offensive conservatism—this role was manifested in the manner in which the Third World's quest for independence and liberation, the U.S. rivalry with the Soviet Union, and compatibility with the U.S. Democrats were approached.

This is because Bush was among the major members of the tripartite committee consisting of representatives from the industrial countries of Europe, Japan, and the United States. The main policy of this committee is to calmly insert Third World countries into the capitalist world through support for directed democracy and through an emphasis on economic and ideological superiority in rivalry with the Soviet Union and its allies.

Thus, despite the strong anti-communist slogans and defense of extremist right-wing factions in the Third World since the outset of his administration, Reagan was able to adjust his policies in the last years of his presidency.

After Gorbachev was put at the head of the political administration of Soviet society, Reagan's fanning of the strong flames of anti-communist slogans died down, and Reagan gradually supported the downfall of pro-right dictatorships. Amidst such incidents, the arms talks achieved specific outcomes. Regional crises shifted from the military to the political sphere, and talk about a new era of detente began.

Now, George Bush—who has had an active role in U.S. policies during the past decade—has started to work in a political atmosphere with which he is fully acquainted in order to advance the country's domestic and foreign policies. Nevertheless, he faces many problems, even though he was able to remain immune from the blows of the McFarlane scandal, thanks to the help of his influential allies. It appears that the immense budget deficit stemming from Reagan's militaristic policies is the most immediate problem he faces.

The adoption of an active and successful policy vis-a-vis progressive revolutionary countries in the new political atmosphere that has been influenced by East-West relations is also among the major problems, because the vestiges of what has become known as the Reagan Doctrine continue to exist in U.S. foreign policy toward these countries and toward progressive revolutionary movements. This doctrine includes the creation of low-intensity war, assisting counterrevolutionaries, infiltrating revolutionary movements, and, finally, inflicting sudden blows on the pretext of the existence of terrorism in these countries.

However, in the current political atmosphere, one can foresee that the largest part of George Bush's efforts will be aimed at infiltrating revolutionary processes and at harnessing democratic movements. The rivalry with the Soviet Union in the new stage of detente can also create problems for Bush because Gorbachev's political administration has entered this stage with a specific program and in an active and attractive way, while Ronald Reagan's foreign policy, for the past 2 years, has been on the basis discussed above. Thus, the Soviet Union has a more favorable hand for showing initiative than the United States does.

However, Bush has an important point in his favor because even though he is a conservative Republican he nevertheless also shows signs of the Democrats' liberalism in his policies; it appears that with these specifications he will enjoy more congressional support in comparison with the past when it comes to implementing his domestic and foreign policies. Thus, he can gain congressional suport more easily than Reagan as far as his policies on the budget, East-West relations, regional crises, and domestic policies are concerned.

Musavi-Ardabili Gives Friday Sermon on Crime

LD2001111589 Tehran IRNA in English 1113 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni has recently given special powers to the judiciary enabling it to carry out punishments within days in serious criminal cases which could have taken the judicial bureaucracy years to solve.

Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdulkarim Musavi-Ardabili said judicial authorities as well as officials and religious leaders throughout Iran had been informed of a special committee set up to use the new powers.

"If a serious crime has taken place...just make one phone call," he said in Tehran's Friday prayers gathering.

The chief justice warned thugs, hostage-takers, rapists and armed robbers as well as smugglers who are currently the main target of an intensive campaign against narcotics that they could not longer escape justice by using inherent delays in the court system.

"I warned them that this martyr-rearing nation is impatient and the Imam will not allow (delays) any more," he stressed.

"Don't even think you would go to prison for two years if you commit an atrocity. You must know that between committing a crime and your execution there will be only a difference of ten days - maximum."

Since the imam gave special authority to the judiciary to solve serious crimes outside the existing bureaucracy it was "suddenly transformed in seven or eight days," the chief justice said without specifying when the power was granted.

He said several cases involving group-murders and rapes in a number of towns were now being investigated by special courts which had been given the authority to pass judgements.

The final verdict would still have to be confirmed in Tehran but the chief justice pledged full support.

Ardabili described the judicial process as extremely slow and complicated in spite an Islamic law which calls for swift justice particularly in dealing with serious crimes.

"If I start telling you what happens to a case in the judicial system you will get tired of listening in the middle of it," he said.

There were legal loopholes for postponing verdicts, pleas from families and friends to prevent stiff sentences, and in the judiciary itself dozens of legal steps and formalities had to be taken before a court verdict was implemented.

"This could take up to four or five years, if everything is done accordingly."

Last Monday 56 drug smugglers were executed in the capital and 16 other cities in what has turned into the biggest crackdown on drug smuggling in Iran's history.

He rejected suggestions that the campaign was like "some noises after the revolution which died down after a while" and warned that it was not a temporary or tactical decision.

"As long as the threat of narcotics exists in Iran, the executions will continue."

In his speech which was interrupted several times by roars of support from tens of thousands worshippers at the area in and around Tehran University Ayatollah Ardabili did not mention whether crimes committed by anti-revolutionary groups was also of concern.

He also made a strong plea to the judicial authorities not to treat serious criminals lightly.

He said a bill had been prepared for some time which would make it obligatory that judgements on serious crimes be passed only by judges who were also mujtahids (jurisprudents). The bill would be given to the Majlis or directly to the Imam for approval he said.

More on Friday Prayers

LD2001220289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1535 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Abdulkarim Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, at Tehran University on 20 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [Koranic verse omitted] One of the great and important aspects of the Islamic system, which is a divine system of government, is that it differs from manmade governmental systems in that the Islamic system—in principle a divine system—does not become deadlocked under any conditions or in any situation. There is always a way open. Profane systems, however progressive and advanced, become entangled in bottlenecks, become deadlocked when incidents occur, and suffer the consequences. As they can find no proper solutions, they resort to despotism and dictatorship in order to break the deadlock.

The mystery of this issue lies in the fact that manmade and profane systems are controlled by a set of rules and regulations arising from human minds, systems based on human force. On the other hand, divine systems—despite the attention which is given to human force and to votes—are based on the rule of the jurisconsult, a rule ordained by God.

This is the solution to the problem, because manmade governments become deadlocked, and anyone can become entangled. However advanced the rules and regulations are, it is impossible to predict the future and to find solutions to them in advance. The rules that have been laid down do not always produce positive results in practice. [passage omitted]

Divine systems, such as Islamic governments, also have rules and regulations. They have constitutions and the normal laws. They have a majlis and a government. They have all these things. Nevertheless, in those exceptional situations when a problem has arisen, a problem which is impossible to solve within the system, as when a calamitous event occurs, the vice-regency of the jurisconsult, who holds the divine scales in his hand, is able to resolve the problems and break the deadlock with the aid of Islamic jurisprudence and the divine scales. [passage omitted]

In the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran this issue has been faced and dealt with on several occasions in the past 10 years—despite the many obstacles in our path, the pressures put on us by the superpowers, the imposed war with all its dimensions, and all the tricks played against us by domestic and foreign foes of the Islamic Republic. We saw how these problems were all resolved during these 10 years. This privilege of a divine system resolved our problems every time in every situation. Whenever we reached a deadlock, the issue was resolved by a single decree from his eminence the imam by a religious ruling or sometimes by an admonition or order from him. This is what the system involves. And this is what the privilege is. [passage omitted]

I would like to give you an example to make my remarks more clear and will explain it based on the judicial system. Let us assume that a government has been established, a system has been organized, with a center named Tehran and a city called Sabzevar. This is a true fact that I am telling you about; it is also an example. A number of thugs gathered together and decided to gang up and set fire to the region. Working to a plan, they gathered their relatives, organized firearms, weapons, guns, and grenades, and in the middle of the night some 400 or 500 started a fight. One of them tried throwing a grenade but it blew up in his hands and killed him. Another shot a pregnant women and generally they created turmoil in the region. This happened recently in Sabzevar. [passage omitted]

We want to resolve this problem through the judicial system. How can that be done? First of all, the police should go to the region and collect information; this will take a couple of weeks. Then, the magistrate should go there, if he had not already gone. The magistrate then would have to investigate and issue summons which would be passed to the prosecutor, who may or may not agree to it. If he opposes it, then it has to go to court, which would either approve it or turn it down. The investigation could continue for 2 to 5 months and once the material is collected, it would go to court. The court would review the matter, and they know all the ways of delaying the process.

It could take a year in court and even when a verdict is issued, the case could go to the Supreme Court and be overturned. The judge would then not accept it; he would pass the case to the chief prosecutor who would in turn pass it to another court. The court, according to due process, would have file yet again arrive in the hands of the Supreme Court. [passage omitted]

Suffice it to say that, if I tell you the course of one case through the judicial system all of you will get tired of hearing about it in the middle of my speech. Now this happened in Sabzevar, but it could happen anywhere in Iran. In any case, if it takes 4 years for the case to reach a final verdict then the issue is forgotten. Everyone has forgotten about it. Some might say: Why are they killing this poor soul? Another might say: What did he do? Yet another might say: What about his wife and children? This is a dead end in the judicial system. On the other hand, their holinesses Imam 'Ali and Sadiq have said that punishment of the criminal, even if delayed for 1 hour, is a sin. Well, some of these cases have been delayed 4 or 5 years, even longer.

This is where the jurisconsult felt the responsibility to appoint a representative to sit down and on the basis of shari'a—outside the maze of the judicial system—to issue his verdicts, as all the guilty parties are known, the crime is known, and the punishment is known. When the verdict is carried out, people will understand it, the word of God had been adhered to, and there is an immediate effect on the issue and on others. This was an example.

When they say that with the presence of a leader, the jurisconsult, at the head of a system the system has no problems and obstructions, it means that the leader will remove any obstructions on the basis of the power he possesses. This is an advantage which our system enjoys and no other system has. His holiness the imam, when he was told recently that it takes time to carry out the Lord's orders, issued an order, such a good and beneficial order that I will tell you about it while also thanking God for the solution to this problem. [passage omitted]

In Do Rud over a year ago, two blacksmiths had annoyed the thugs of the region. They attacked the home of another blacksmith, murdered him, plundered his wealth, raped his wife, and created an uproar. The file was being investigated within the system for over a year. It was going from one room to the other. As soon as we felt imam had given us permission to investigate matters, a verdict was issued immediately—within 24 hours. Four were executed, two hands were cut off, three others were given 7 to 9 years in prison. They all merited punishment. [crowd chants approval]

It is clear that you like that kind of decisiveness. That being the case, I will give you another piece of good news. Just as I am speaking to you now, a court of that kind in Sabzevar is dealing with that criminal case. A delegation has arrived from Mashhad. As I was coming to the prayers, they said the matter has been resolved. We consider them to be corrupt, warmongers, and murderers. I said: Pass two death sentences, first, on the charge of warmongering and second, on the charge of murder. Therefore, now that they can see the result, they will turn away from corruption. They will be executed as warmongerers. [crowd chants approval]

Please, allow me. Thank you. Another trial was held in Abhar. They said the trial has ended. Four evil people of Abhar, who had corrupted a young boy and had committed rape, were immediately put on trial by us. They telephoned me today. All four have been sentenced to death. [passage omitted]

This manner of resolving matters, that manner of breaking a deadlock is only possible in an Islamic system under the rule of the jurisconsult, and on the orders of the jurisconsult. We have no deadlocks in our system due to God's wisdom.

I said that as an example. However, that command of his eminence the imam—I feel it necessary to say this here—that command of his eminence the imam, his gracious decision, has many blessings. We have issued two circulars throughout Iran. One is addressed to the heads of courts, heads of revolutionary trials, and to prosecutors general, the prosecutors general of the revolution. That is one circular. The other circular is addressed to honorable Friday imams, governors general.

As soon as such a criminal case occurs in the capital of the province, or in a town, or in a village, the offices for dealing with them are open night and day. Just make a telephone call and report that such a thing has happened. Using that command of his eminence the imam, we will hold an immediate trial and we will bring the case to an end in a matter of 3, 4, or 5 days. That is the blessing arising from the existence of the jurisconsult at the head of the system.

What the imam commanded and what he decided was: What are you waiting for? Why are God's commands being delayed? So we established a headquarters which will begin work tomorrow: the headquarters for the implementation of the imam's commands [setad-e ejra-ye avamer-e imam] in order to allocate the work, to deal with things rapidly, and to follow up issues. We have established a seminar. [passage omitted]

Musavi Returns Home From Rome, Warsaw Visits

LD2001160089 Tehran IRNA in English
1554 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi arrived here Friday afternoon in conclusion of his five-day official visits to Italy and Poland.

On arrival Musavi termed his tour as successful and noted that some understandings were reached during the visit on regional and international issues.

Italy is cooperating with Iran in several major economic projects including the Mobarakeh steel complex, Martyr Rajaie port near Bandar Abbas and a number of power plans.

"Minor executive problems were solved during our talks in Italy," he added.

Elsewhere Musavi said a contract was inked for the annual export of one million tons of Iranian crude oil to Poland in return for the construction of a mining machinery factory and a fishing trawler yard.

Iran's position vis-a-vis some international issues including Lebanon, Afghanistan, security of the Persian Gulf and the implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 were dicussed with leaders in Rome and Warsaw Musavi said.

In his meeting with Pope John Paul II, Musavi informed the Catholic Church leader on Iran's opinion on the role of religion in all social and political affairs and stressed that religion should have a solution to all contemporary world problems.

"In this case the ideological gap in the world will be bridged" the pope was told.

Majlis Deputy Speaker's Resignation Reported

LD1901183289 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1625 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan 19 (TANJUG)—Deputy speaker of Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) Ahmed Zamaniyan has resigned over what he said was the "unhealthy practice" prevailing in courts in his constituency of Nahavand in the Hamadan Province.

Zamaniyan, one of the two deputy speakers of Majlis, has been member of Iran's highest legislative body since its establishment. He submitted his resignation to Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday, but, as reported today, it is still uncertain whether it will be accepted.

Speaking about the need for constitutional reforms late last year, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said that certain shortcomings in the judiciary should be removed.

In a letter to the High Council for the judiciary, all 190 Majlis deputies yesterday demanded a thorough investigation of the country's judicial organs.

Amnesties for Some Military Prisoners Approved

LD2101184389 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] All prisoners who were sentenced to less than 4 years imprisonment by the military and special courts set up during the war have been granted amnesty and will be freed by 11 February to commemorate the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution.

According to IRNA, the deputy of the Armed Forces Judicial Organization announced the amnesty in a press interview and added that the request for amnesty for prisoners serving sentences of less than 4 years was brought to the attention of the eminent armed forces commander-in-chief, who delegated the matter to the deputy leader. The deputy leader approved the amnesty.

Montazeri Forbids Amal, Hizballah From Fighting

LD2001090689 Tehran IRNA in English 0902 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in a statement forbade Hizballah and Amal militias in Lebanon from further fighting that has been described as the fiercest between the rival Shi'a groups.

He also said it was expected that Syria would try harder to end the bloodshed which resumed Thursday in spite of an undeclared truce in Beirut's southern suburbs.

"Any fighting, conflict and bloodshed or indifference towards them are clearly haram and against divine shari'a (Islamic law)," said the ayatollah who is Iran's designated future leader.

He said the conflict "depresses any conscientious human being" and weakened the Lebanese Islamic resistance which was one of the dangerous conspiracies of Israel and the United States.

"Today this is what is happening," he said.

The statement follows strong pleas to the two belligerents from President 'Ali Khamene'i and Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to stop the fighting.

"It is logically and religiously incumbent on any faction and power that believes in Islam and jihad in the path of God to try and put out the flame of this bloody fighting," Montazeri said.

He was replying to a letter from a group of Lebanese theology students and teachers in Qom requesting a halt to the clashes that has left hundreds of casualties, including civilians since 31 December.

The statement was dated 19 January the day Ayatollah Montazeri met with Imam Khomeyni but it was not known whether the Lebanese issue was specifically discussed.

Ayatollah Montazeri also called on all sides involved and concerned about the conflict, including Syria and Lebanon religious leaders, to work harder to halt the fighting.

He said Iranian officials currently in Lebanon in an attempt to mediate between Amal and Hizballah should be "totally committed" to their excellencies the high 'ulema of Lebanon, he said.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' of Syria which has deployed about 25,000 troops in neighboring Lebanon discussed various issues facing Lebanon with Arab League envoys seeking to end the political crisis in that country.

Pakistan

Baluchistan High Court Orders Assembly Restored

BK2301113889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The Baluchistan High Court has ordered restoration of the Provincial Assembly. It was announced by the chief justice, Mr Justice Abul Qadir Chaudhary, in Quetta this afternoon. The High Court's order said according to the certificate issued by the speaker, Mir Zafarullah Jamali [the chief minister] secured 22 votes, including the casting vote of the speaker, under a (?settlement) carried out in the Assembly on the 2d of December 1988. But that was not the majority of the members and the chief minister was required to get the vote of confidence from Provincial Assembly within 60 days.

Thus the chief minister was under a constitutional disability to advise the dissolution of the assembly. As the dissolution of the assembly was unconstitutional and without legal authority, therefore the assembly stands restored. The judgment was unanimous. The full court comprised Mr Justice Abul Qadir Chaudhary, Mr Justice Nasar Ahmad Mirza, Mir Hazar Khan Khoso, and Mr Justice Amirul Mulk Mengal.

The Advocate General of Baluchistan moved an application in the Baluchistan High Court requesting for suspension of order about the restoration of Provincial Assembly for 15 days to enable the provincial government to go into appeal in the Supreme Court against the judgment of the High Court. The court has set hearing of the application tomorrow by the full bench.

No Appeal Against Verdict

BK2301143889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Baluchistan High Court has ordered the restoration of the Baluchistan [Provincial] Assembly. This was announced by the chief justice, Justice Abul Qadir Chaudhary, in Quetta this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Reacting to the Baluchistan High Court order for the restoration of the Baluchistan Assembly, a senior spokesman of the Federal Government said that soon after the dissolution of the Baluchistan Assembly, the prime minister and the Federal Government had advised the opposition party to go to the court for the redressal of their grievances.

The Federal Government has always maintained the position that neither the provincial chief minister nor the governor had consulted the Federal Government about the dissolution of the assembly. The Federal Government had categorically stated that it would remain totally impartial about the current and future situation of the Baluchistan Assembly.

The Federal Government has decided not to appeal in the Supreme Court against the Baluchistan High Court judgment because, in its opinion, it is neither necessary nor appropriate.

The spokesman said the Federal Government will firmly adhere to its stand that it is in no way a party to this action and that it realizes the far-reaching and very significant implications of this judgment and that it has full faith in the integrity and sovereignty of the judiciary.

TASS Report on Helicopter Intrusion Denied

BK2201142489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has described as totally baseless a Soviet TASS report that a Pakistani helicopter had recently intruded into the Yasin Baba area of Afghanistan. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, the spokesman described the report as most surprising and totally incorrect and said that no Pakistani helicopter had intruded into Afghanistan territory.

Sikh Group Claims Responsibility for 11 Jan Blast

BK2301161589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0641 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Jan 20 (AFP)—A Sikh militant group has claimed responsibility for last week's bomb blast in Pakistan's Peshawar city which left four people dead, a newspaper reported Friday [20 January].

THE TIMES OF INDIA said it had received a statement purportedly issued by the Khalistan Commando Force (KCF) claiming the explosion was "the first gift" to the new civilian government in Pakistan due to its alleged anti-Sikh stand.

A powerful bomb blast ripped through Peshawar's Charsada bus terminal January 11, killing four people and wounding 14. Three of the victims were Afghan refugees.

In the past, Pakistani officials have blamed Kabul for such explosions, because of Islamabad's support to Moslem guerrillas fighting the Afghan regime.

THE TIMES said the KCF statement, dated January 12, was signed by "General" Gurjant Singh Rajasthani, one of six top Sikh militants reported by police to have filtered into New Delhi in the past few day to sabotage the annual January 26 republic day celebrations.

The statement accused Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who took office last month, of entering into a "conspiracy" with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi "against the Sikhs", THE TIMES added.

Mr. Gandhi visited Islamabad in December, when he held talks with Ms. Bhutto, who has indicated that her government would not be inclined favourably towards Sikh separatists.

Pakistani diplomats were not immediately available to comment on the KCF statement. [passage omitted]

Ishaq Khan, Bhutto Congratulate President Bush

BK2201002089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto have felicitated Mr George Bush on his assumption of the office of U.S. President and hoped that the close ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will be further expanded.

In his message of congratulations to Mr Bush, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan said the understanding and accomodation to which the new president had contributed in no small measure in the past would be further expanded in the days to come. He wished him success for upholding the cause of freedom and peace throughout the world.

In a message of felicitations, Ms Benazir Bhutto expressed the confidence that relations between Pakistan and the United States would grow from strength to strength.

The prime minister said we deeply appreciate the fact that the U.S. Administration and the congressional leadership have applauded the democratic process in Pakistan. We have been [words indistinct] expression of support from a trusted friend like you. Pakistan and the United States are bound in a historic partnership rooted in shared purposes and common goals. She expressed confidence that this mutually advantageous relationship will be strengthened during Mr Bush's tenure of office.

Bhutto To Pay Official Visit to PRC 11-14 Feb

BK2201111689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, is to pay an official visit to the People's Republic of China from the 11th to the 14th of next month. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan is likely to be represented by the prime minister at the funeral of Emperor Hirohito of Japan on the 24th of next month.

Yaqub Khan on Vorontsov Talks on Afghan Issue

BK1901130889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 19 (AFP)—Pakistan said Thursday it would not try to force the Afghan resistance to share power with the ruling Communist Party in Kabul.

"It was unrealistic to expect Pakistan to try and persuade the mujahidin to share power with the PDPA (People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan) or the Kabul regime," Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan told the Senate.

Commenting on the deadlocked mujahidin-Moscow talks he said "the key to a just and durable settlement of the Afghanistan problem was the transfer of power to a broad-based interim government."

Mr. Khan said Pakistan had told Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov at a second round of talks with the Afghan resistance in Islamabad that "a ceasefire would only be feasible after, not before, the replacement of the Kabul regime by a broad-based government."

He said the "convening of a consultative group, truly representative of Afghan opinion, was a crucial step in this direction."

The consultative group which was scheduled to meet on February 1, would appoint an interim government that would be "mandated to establish a permanent government through elections to a shura or loya jirgah," Mr. Khan said.

"(Mr.) Vorontsov saw merit" in the proposal but had insisted on the inclusion of the PDPA," he said.

"I told him candidly that this was not acceptable to the mujahidin, but they were prepared to include individuals from Kabul whom they considered to be good Muslims," Mr. Khan said.

He expressed the hope that the interim government "would restore peace and enable the Afghan refugees to return to their homes in honour and safety."

"We disagreed with Vorontsov's perception that the Afghan alliance was hopelessly divided whereas the Kabul regime was the only united force... able to survive" after the departure of Soviet troops from Afghanistan," he said.

He said it was the Kabul regime "that was riddled with differences and the military advantage lay with the resistance and not with the Kabul regime."

"Mujahidin enjoyed ascendancy and controlled most of the territory of Afghanistan," Mr. Khan Isaid.

Mr. Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to promote mutually beneficial relations with the Soviet Union following "a just and equitable resolution of the Afghan problem."

On Kashmir, Siachen Dispute

BK1901142889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1412 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 19 (AFP)—Pakistan Thursday said it would not alter its stand that the Jammu and Kashmir region remains a dispute with India which needs to be settled.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told the Senate that during talks with her Indian counterpart Rajiv Gandhi here in December Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto "clearly set forth Pakistan's principled position on Jammu and Kashmir and emphasised that the Simla Agreement, which the two countries signed in 1972, recognised this as an outstanding dispute which remained to be settled."

Mr. Khan was replying to an opposition charge that the government failed to raise this issue with the Indian prime minister when he visited Islamabad in December for the fourth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

India and Pakistan fought three wars in connection with the Kashmir dispute and the main opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance has made it an issue in by-elections due late this month.

On the dispute over the Siachen Glacier in the Karakoram, most of which has been occupied by India since 1984, Mr. Yaqub Khan said it had resulted from India's violation of the Simla Agreement, which had otherwise worked well in maintaining peace over the past 16 years.

He said defence secretaries of the two countries would meet again to find ways and means of reching a "just settlement" of the problem.

Mr. Yaqub Khan said talks between Mr. Gandhi and Ms. Bhutto were held in an atmosphere of "expectancy" that their meeting should contribute towards reducing tensions and promoting good-neighbourly relations.

He said, "The advent of our popularly-elected government and parallel democratic systems in the two countries provided a propitious opportunity to reinvigorate the process of normalisation of relations."

On the nuclear issue, which has remained an irritant in Indo-Pakistan relations, Mr. Khan said "We stated our position on the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear programme and reiterated various proposals to India for a regional solution to keep South Asia free from nuclear weapons."

He said the resulting agreement between India and Pakistan that they should not attack each other's nuclear installations is a "significant and timely confidence-building measure designed to reduce tension."

He also reaffirmed Pakistan's non-involvement in India's internal affairs and expressed the hope that this principle would be adhered to by "all states".

India has accused Pakistan of assisting Sikhs striving for an independent Khalistan state in the Indian Punjab, a charge Pakistan had strongly denied. Press reports here blamed Indian agents for bloody ethnic trouble in Pakistan's southern Sind Province.

Referring to the SAARC conference, Mr. Khan said its "successful" convening here reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the cause of regional cooperation and said it would be Pakistan's endeavour to make SAARC a " more effective vehicle" to this end.

SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

On Disputes With India

BK1901162789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan assured the Senate today that Pakistan's foreign policy will continue to be based on the pursuit of the country's national interests. He said the country's foreign policy is based on Islamic principles, international law, and the United Nations Charter. The foreign minister presented a comprehensive review of the recent SAARC summit conference in Pakistan, bilateral discussions with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov's visit to Pakistan, and the prime minister's visit to Saudi Arabia to perform a minor pilgrimage.

Referring to the talks between the prime ministers of Pakistan and India during the SAARC summit conference, the foreign minister said that our prime minister clearly explained Pakistan's principled position on Jammu and Kashmir and emphasized that the Simla Agreement recognized this as an outstanding dispute which remains to be settled. He assured the House that the Pakistani side left no doubt that the Jammu and Kashmir issue still remains unsettled and unresolved. He said we have always maintained this position and would never abandon it.

On the Siachen Glacier issue, the foreign minister said Pakistan pointed out that the dispute has resulted from India's violation of the Simla Agreement, which has otherwise worked well in maintaining peace over the past 16 years.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that during the talks with the Indian prime minister, we once again stated our well-known and clear position on the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear program and reiterated various proposals forwarded to India to resolve this issue on a regional level and to keep South Asia free from nuclear weapons.

The foreign minister said Pakistan again stated that Islamabad is not interfering in India's internal affairs and expressed the hope that all states will observe the principle of noninterference in the domestic affairs of other countries.

Yaqub Khan said the three agreements signed with India are aimed at gradually promoting good-neighborly relations by building an atmosphere of trust and easing tension between the two countries.

The foreign minister described the fourth SAARC summit conference in Islamabad as an exemplary success, during which several important decisions, mostly on Pakistan's suggestions, were made.

Concerning Vorontsov's visit to Pakistan and his talks with Pakistani leaders, the foreign minister said Islamabad disagreed with the Soviet viewpoint that the Afghan alliance has become hopelessly divided and that the Kabul regime alone is a united force. Pakistan rejected the Kabul regime's claim of legitimacy and emphasized the need for the withdrawal of Soviet troops under the Geneva accords.

The foreign minister said the Soviet leadership desires to strengthen friendly and cooperative relations with the democratically elected government in Pakistan. The Soviet offer of assistance in the expansion of the Karachi steel mill and in several other programs of the seventh plan reflect this desire. The Pakistani minister of state for production will go to Moscow at the head of a delegation for further talks in this regard.

On the prime minister's visit to Saudi Arabia to perform a minor pilgrimage, the foreign minister said the warm welcome and hospitality accorded by the Saudi Government and Ms Bhutto's 2-hour-long talks with King Fahd, the custodian of the two Muslim holy shrines, reflect the existing closer relations between the two countries.

On U.S.-Libyan Dispute

BK2201155589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Today the Senate continued for the 4th day its discussion on the country's political situation after the November elections and the formation of the new government. Four members participated in the debate today. Dr Mahbubul Haq of the Pakistan Muslim League said they wish success for the new democratic era that has begun in the country. He said the government has created complexities in the economic field and its economic management system is confusing and objectionable.

Another member of the Pakistan Muslim League, Hassan A. Sheikh, said a tension exists between the Center and the Punjab and, in his opinion, the Center is responsible for this. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan informed the Senate of the balanced and constructive role played by Pakistan after the downing of two Libyan aircraft by the United States and the efforts Islamabad made for easing tension. He was replying to two identical motions on this issue, which were sought to be moved on by Tariq Chaudhary and Maulana Samiul Haq.

He made it clear that soon after the receipt of the report of this incident on 4 January, the Foreign Office reaffirmed its stand that Pakistan firmly believes in the principle of the nonuse of force or in not using threats of force to settle disputes. Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations also addressed the UN Security Council in this connection, and his speech has been greatly appreciated by the Libyan Government.

The foreign minister said Pakistan also expects similar sentiments from Libya in connection with Islamabad's principled stand on various issues, including Afghanistan. The chairman ruled the motions out of order by saying that after the foreign minister's statement, no purpose will be solved by holding further discussion on this issue.

The House will resume its session tomorrow morning.

Punjab Chief Criticizes Federal Government

BK2101034689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that the Islamic Democratic Alliance wants to establish the supremacy of Islam, a strong Pakistan, and the prosperity of the people. Addressing a public rally in Lahore last night, he said his government in Punjab has put an end to the possibility of rule by a party that forms the basis of dictatorial system.

He said that the federal government is attempting to deny the people's verdict in Punjab, but that it does not realize that the people of Punjab are not so weak that they cannot protect their interests.

Sri Lanka

Indian Envoy, Premadasa Discuss Draft Treaty

BK1801150889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] India is willing to consider the Sri Lankan suggestion of bilateral treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation. This was conveyed by the Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, to the Sri Lankan president when he called on Mr Premadasa in Colombo yesterday evening.

Mr Premadasa has indicated to the high commissioner that a draft of the treaty based on the principles of mutual benefit and reciprocity will be sent to the Indian government in the near future.

Militants Kill 6 Indian Soldiers; Mine Kills 1

BK2001030089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, six peacekeeping force personnel were killed in violent incidents in the northeast of the country. Four jawans [soldiers] and an officer were killed when a patrolling party on a boat was fired upon by militants in Chundikkulam in Jaffna peninsula. Three personnel swam to safety. One jawan was killed by the LTTE men in an encounter in the same area, while another [was] killed in a landmine explosion at Pesalai in Mannar District.

Tamil Gunmen Kill 6 Soldiers, 6 Others

BK2001131789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1303 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Colombo, Jan 20 (AFP)—At least 12 people, including six Sri Lankan soldiers, were killed Friday in continuing unrest in the island, security sources here said. Gunmen believed to be from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed an Army convoy in northwestern Mannar District killing five soldiers, an officer and a civilian, the sources said. They said the attackers removed four Chinese-made T-56 assault rifles, 12 magazines and a radio set from the victims. It was the worst attack against Sri Lankan soldiers in recent months.

Three Sri Lankan soldiers were gunned down by suspected LTTE men in neighbouring Vavuniya District Tuesday.

In a separate incident in northern Jaffna Peninsula, Indian troops killed an LTTE activist in a fierce gunbattle, the sources said.

In the island's south, suspected Sinhalese rebels Friday gunned down four and seriously wounded seven during an attack on a ruling United National Party (UNP) office in central Kandy town, officials said. Gunmen from the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) fired at the election office of former speaker of Parliament E.L. Senanakaye and escaped after exploding grenades, the sources said. Among the wounded was a UNP candidate in the February 15 parliamentary election, the first in 11 years.

In a separate development, JVP activists exploded bombs in Southern Province, a hotbed of anti-government activity, to commemorate their colleagues killed by security forces, residents contacted by telephone said. They said no one was wounded in the blasts which appeared to be intended at showing the group's strength.

The latest violence came a day after JVP men killed at least nine rivals in separate incidents in southern Sri Lanka where the group has a stronghold and LTTE men killed nine Indian soldiers in the north.

Both the JVP and the LTTE are violently opposed to the government and a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord under which New Delhi has 45,000 to 50,000 troops in the island's Tamil-populated northern and eastern regions.

Since the peace pact which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign, the JVP has been accused of killing over 1,600 rivals and security personnel.

The LTTE is continuing a violent guerrilla war against Indian troops after refusing to surrender arms in line with the peace deal. India has lost over 700 soldiers since launching an offensive against the LTTE in October 1987.

4 Killed, 7 Wounded as Gunmen Attack UNP Office

BK2001080589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0719 GMT 20 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 20 (LANKAPUVATH)—Four persons were reported killed and seven wounded when gunmen opened fire at the United National Party (UNP) office at Kandy this morning.

Police told one of the wounded was Harendra Dunuwille, UNP candidate for the Kandy electoral district in the forthcoming parliamentary general elections and the nephew of the governor of the central province E.L.B. Hurulle.

Police said the killers had used a T-56 rifle, a shot gun and grenades in the attack which took place about 1000 hours (local time) today.

'Rampaging' Indian Soldiers Set Villages on Fire

BK2101154489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1533 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Colombo, Jan 21 (AFP)—Three Indian soldiers and five Tamil rebels were killed as more than 150 fishermen took refuge in a church to escape rampaging Indian troops in separate incidents in northeastern Sri Lanka, Indian officials and Tamil residents said Saturday.

Indian officials said a junior commissioned officer and two soldiers of a patrol party were killed by rebels belonging to the dominant separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in an ambush in the northern Vavuniya sector Friday. They said three rebels were killed in search operations following the ambush. Two Indian patrols had shot dead a rebel lookout atop a tree and captured two of his associates in the same area before one of the patrols was ambushed. They said another militant was shot dead in Jaffna when he tried to escape custody.

About 25 makeshift fishing villages, seven small shops and 12 houses were allegedly set ablaze by angry Indian troops around Pesalai in neighbouring Mannar District Wednesday after rebels killed six of their colleagues in an ambush, residents of Mannar town, about 10 kilometers (six miles) from Pesalai, said by telephone. They alleged that the soldiers also assaulted the villagers and about 150 of them had taken refuge at a Catholic Church in Pesalai.

Meanwhile, the LTTE, in a press release here today, alleged that more than 100 civilians had been admitted to a hospital in the northern Jaffna Peninsula for treatment of injuries sustained in an "indiscriminate attack" by Indian soldiers Friday. The attack on the civilians of four coastal villages—Vembadi, Nediakadu, Urani and Polikandy—followed the killing of six Indian troops in an encounter with the rebels in Valvettithurai, it claimed.

A spokesperson for the Indian High Commission (embassy) denied the allegations of both the Mannar residents and the LTTE.

India has deployed nearly 50,000 troops in the Tamil-populated northeastern region of the island under a peace pact signed between the two countries in July 1987. After initially accepting the accord, which sought to end the ethnic conflict in the island, the LTTE repudiated it and has been waging a bloody bush war against the Indian troops. The Indians have lost more than 700 soldiers since launching a campaign to disarm the LTTE in October 1987.

5 Militants, 3 PKF Soldiers Killed 21 Jan

BK2201032689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, five LTTE militants and three PKF [Peacekeeping Force] personnel were killed in separate incidents of violence in the northeastern region during the last 2 days. According to official sources, four LTTE militants and three PKF soldiers were killed in an exchange of fire near Vavuniya yesterday. Another militant was shot dead in Jaffna.